Hafa Adai!

SUNDAY

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 160 | JUNE 8, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

2 men nabbed for sexual abuse of minors. **PAGE 2**

'Sensor moisture caused Guam B-2 crash' **PAGE 5**

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

What did you do with your stimulus check?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

Delay in parts shipment pushes back CUC repairs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will not meet the targeted April 2009 completion of all repairs and maintenance work on its power engines due to a delay in the shipment of engine parts.

CUC executive director Antonio Muna told the media that the initial deadline they set to finish all the repairs—which they earlier shared with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce—may be pushed back a little because of parts shipment problems.

"Once the parts issue is resolved, then it's just about manpower. So if we could get the parts, then the manpower issue can be accelerated," Muna said.

See MORE on Page 4

NMI 'ice' trade has new supplier

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
REPORTER

Norita

Chinese traffickers of methamphetamine or "ice" now control most of the illegal drug operations in the CNMI, particularly on Tinian where it is now a big problem, according to the Department of Public Safety.

> "It's the business of it. The Chinese need to flood the market with cheap buys, with cheap merchandize and they wipe out the competition."
> Alfred Celes

This is why most "ice" traffickers arrested by the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force and DPS Narcotics Unit the past few months are Chinese nationals, said Commissioner Claudio K. Norita and Police Sergeant Alfred Celes

"It's the business of it. The Chinese need to flood the market with cheap buys, with cheap merchandize and they wipe out the competi-

See MAIN on Page 4

INSIDE

Split Level
Consider all the potential solutions for modern living, and the split-level house hardly seems an obvious candidate.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING... Page 10

Street Art
To those new to street art, there are aspects of Abel Izaguirre's empire might surprise and alarm.

GOOD LIFE...PAGE 12

Private Talk
Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke for an hour about the presidential campaign to come.

UNITED STATES...Page 17

DR. HENARO SABINO JR.
A loving heart for CNMI's children

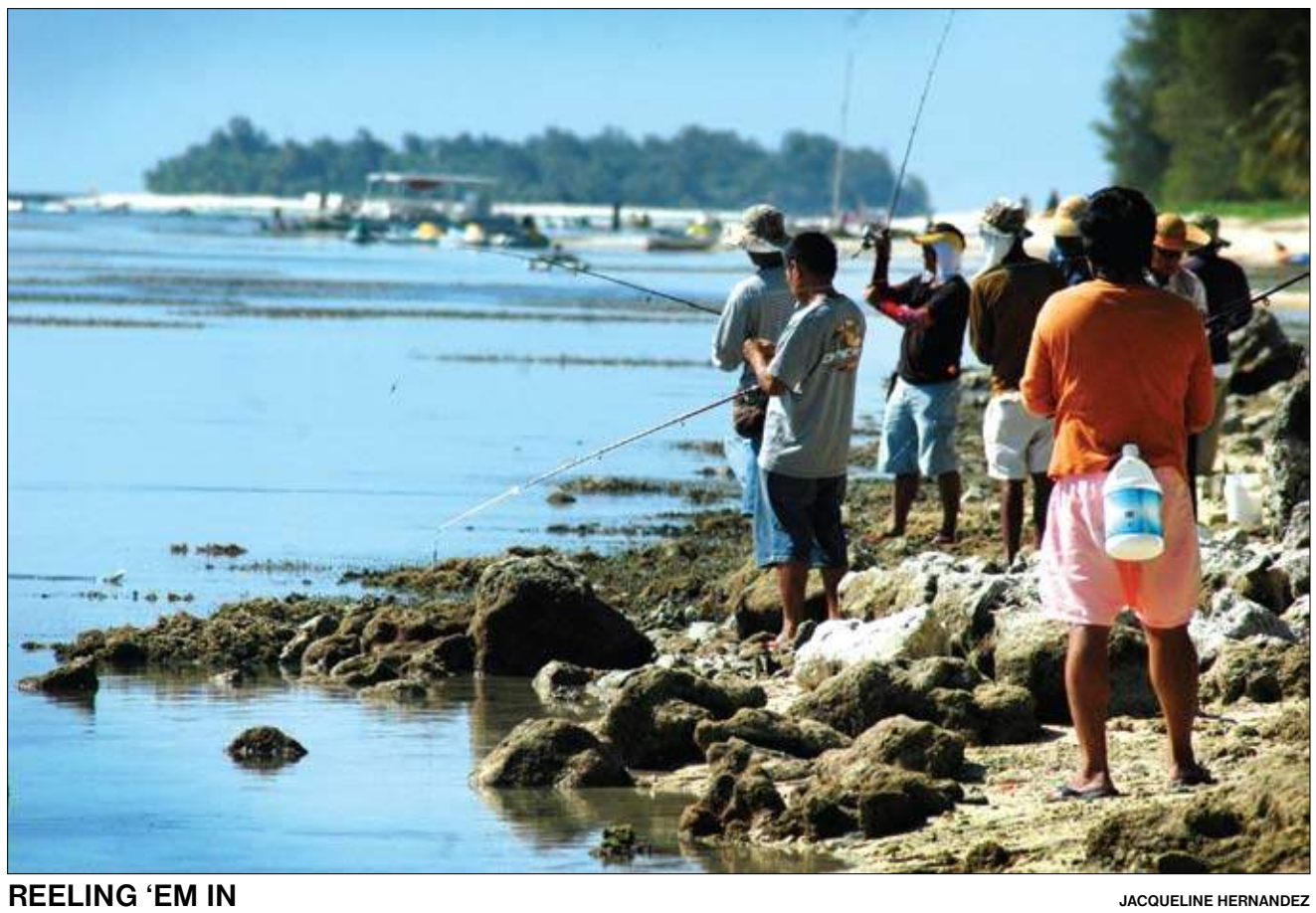
By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Island PROFILE

Dr. Henaro Sabino Jr. recently returned to the island to treat children with heart diseases on Tinian, Saipan, and Rota.

The pediatric cardiology clinic ran this past week (from June 2 to 6) at the Children's Clinic of the Commonwealth Health Center.

See DOCTOR on Page 4



REELING 'EM IN JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Dozens of local fisherman are seen fishing at the Garapan fishing base, whiling away the afternoon with a rod and reel and, hopefully, a bountiful catch.

Oil makes biggest single-day leap to $138

By ADAM SCHRECK
AP BUSINESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices made their biggest single-day leap ever Friday, dragging the Dow Jones industrials down nearly 400 points and raising the once-unthinkable prospect of $150 oil and more record gas prices by the Fourth of July.

The meteoric rise of nearly $11 for the day piled atop an increase of almost $5.50 the day before, taking oil futures more than 13 percent higher in just two days, easily a record on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

And those weren't the only stunning

See OIL on Page 4

Around the CNMI

2 men nabbed for sexual abuse of minors

Two men were arrested for allegedly sexually abusing two underaged girls on Rota.

Harun Dali, 36, was apprehended for sexual abuse of a minor in the second and third degrees.

Sobhan (full name), 47, was detained for sexual abuse of a minor in the first and 2nd degrees.

The two, both Bangladeshis, were brought to the Superior Court on Saipan for a bail hearing on Thursday.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a $62,000 cash bail for Dali as the court earlier set for the defendant's temporary liberty.

Wiseman, however, increased Sobhan's bail from $62,000, as the court had previously set, to $75,000 cash because the defendant has a pending sexual assault of a minor case.

As part of the bail conditions, the judge prohibited the defendants from having direct contact with females under 18 years old.

Preliminary hearing in the two cases was set for June 11.

According to police reports, Dali sexually abused a minor who was playing.

Sobhan allegedly sexually abused another minor who asked for his help after being stung by a bee.

Police said Sobhan has a pending case for sexually assaulting a minor. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CNMI Scholarship Office announcement

Application deadline for all applicants to the Educational Assistance Program: New, Ongoing, or Returning is July 1. Deadline for supporting documents is Sept. 30.

Application and supporting Documents deadline for PL 14-37 Honors Scholarship Program is June 30.

For more information call 664-4750 or visit www.cnmischolarship.com. ***(PR)***

Live fire training on Farallon

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, said that the U.S. military would be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla. The schedule dates and time are as follow:

- June 7 – 10 from 6am to 2am
- June 11 – 15 from 6am to 2am

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla training area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

LibDay parade applications now open

The 2008 Liberation Day Steering Committee is now accepting applications for the upcoming 2008 Liberation Day parade. Interested individuals, companies and/or organization may pick up an application at the Marianas Visitors Authority office from Monday to Friday, 8am – 5pm. The deadline to submit all application forms is June 27, 2008, no later than 5pm. For more information, contact Frank Tudela at (670) 664-3200/01 or e-mail via ftudela@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

Library Friends meeting set

The Library Friends of the JoeTen Kiyu Public Library will be meeting on Tuesday, June 10. The meeting will be at 5pm in the central library. The main topic for discussion will be the bookmobile—getting it on the road and keeping it going.

"Please join us in ensuring that we will be able to provide the service of the bookmobile to our community," said Library Friends president Maureen Sebangiol .

If more information is needed, you may contact the library at 235-7332 or Sebangiol at 287-0782. ***(PR)***

NMC English placement test

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting an English placement test next Wednesday, June 11. The test will be conducted in Room A-5 and will run from 2pm to 5pm. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a $25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (Monday-Friday, 9am - 4pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Dept. at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1733. ***(PR)***

Let your Spirits Soar
at the Highest Spa in the Marianas!

Enjoy a breathtaking view of the lagoon as you pamper yourself with luxurious spa treatments at Saipan's newest spa. Experience professional service and a variety of options that will make you feel great—from hot stone aromatherapy massage to shiatsu, skin treatments, facials, therapeudic body wraps, manicures and so much more!

SPECIAL OFFER: Join us on opening day on Sunday June 8 and the first five customers will get one free 30 minute foot bath and foot massage after their scheduled spa treatment.

Lagoon —spa—

Open daily from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 midnight

Located on the 8th floor, Crystal Tower, Hafa Adai Beach Hotel

Reservations recommended at 233-5599 or 234-6495, ext. 5379

Ristorante Italiano
CAPRICCIOSA

Father's Day Special Course

Available from Sunday, June 1st to Sunday, June 15

Complimentary Bottle of Carlsberg Beer

Cup of Corn Soup

Cup of Cobb Salad

Mahi Mahi Chips

Seafood Spaghetti in Tomato Sauce

Only $23.99

Free Wi-Fi Available

Opens at 11:00 am - 10:30 pm Comete Center 1F, Garapan, next to Tony Roma's • Tel.: 233-9194 or 233-9196

Transnational crime still a threat in Pacific

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times/PIR)—The fight against transnational crime remains a priority for regional law enforcement agencies.

Acting Forum Secretariat secretary-general Peter Forau said when opening the 2008 Forum Regional Security Committee meeting Friday it was clear from a variety of investigations recently, the region was targeted by individuals and groups.

These individuals and groups planned a range of transnational crime activities.

"Illicit narcotics including cocaine, heroin, amphetamine precursors and cannabis have been seized from Papua New Guinea and through major tourist centers of Vanuatu and Fiji as well as French Polynesia," said Forau.

"All communities are open to attack from transnational crime and the 2008 Pacific Transnational Crime Assessment report highlights the range of criminal activities in the Pacific region and notes that legislation and capacity remain the primary impediments to effective law enforcement."

The Transnational Crime Assessment report is one of several on the security issues affecting the Pacific region being presented and discussed at the two-day meeting. Security is one of the four pillars of the Pacific Plan endorsed by Pacific Forum Leaders in 2005.

The others are economic growth, good governance and sustainable development.

Pangilinan earns Eagle award from GCA

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Six-year-old Martin Pangilinan shows off his Kindergarten awards during a recent promotional ceremony at Grace Christian Academy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy Kindergarten honored six-year-old Martin Pangilinan with this year's Eagle Award, the school's most prestigious award.

Pangilinan, the son of father Everly from the Office of the Public Auditor and mother, Lorie from the Worker Compensation Commission, also earned the First Honorable Mention honors, the Consistent Effort Award, and Diligence Character Award, in addition to being on the Principal's List throughout the past school year.

The Eagle Award is given to students who demonstrate excellence in academics, citizenship, and Christian character.

"Unlike other parents, we were not even aware that such an award existed anyway. Even if we did know, we would not change our philosophy on learning. Of course we were overreacting to the wonderful news. For a moment we lost sight of our goal for Martin: Learning is fun and enjoyable," said Everly.

The proud father relates that, for Martin, learning was "being excited in telling us on the way home from school about koala bears from Australia, the sour taste of lemon during a blindfold activity on taste buds, writing his name neatly in cursive, counting in fives using nickels, enjoying group reading, and knowing the meaning of Bible verses like John 3:16."

He also acknowledged the role played by teacher Melissa Harper for helping unlock Martin's potential as a student.

"Thank you, Miss Melissa Harper, for being an effective and caring teacher!" said Everly.

STOREWIDE
50% OFF
AT LUCKY STAR
SAN ANTONIO
+20% OFF
ADDITIONAL
MENTION THIS AD OR BRING THIS COUPON TO GET 20% ADDITIONAL DISCOUNT
TEL. 235-1998

Realty Management Services
A TanHoldings Company
Realty Management services is a full-service property management company located on the island of Saipan in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
PMB 521 Box 10000
Saipan, MP 96950-8900
Tel: 1 (670) 235-6527/28
Fax: (670) 235-6530
sales@rmssaipan.com
www.rmssaipan.com
Tired of Living in the Dark?
Enjoy 24/7 POWER

FINASISU TERRACES
Conveniently located on Fina Sisu road, only a 5-minute walk to Northern Marianas College. Close to stores and schools, Finasisu Terraces features a convenient, spacious parking area. Fully furnished air-conditioned units are ready to move in. Single and two bedroom units are available.
• 24 Hour Water
• Night time security
• Typhoon Shutters
• Laundry area
• Free trash collection
• Backup Generator
• On-call maintenance staff
Now we're giving you more reasons to sign up for a year's contract!
Receive an annual FREE VIP Membership to Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and enjoy these VIP privileges :
• 1 Free Sunday Brunch Buffet for two
• 20% discount on food and beverages in all outlets / restaurants
• 20% discount on drinks after happy hour at the Chambre Bar
• Above discounts good for up to 6 persons (including VIP cardholder)

Special Theme Lunch!
MONDAY Korean
TUESDAY Japanese
WEDNESDAY Chinese
THURSDAY Authentic Teppanyaki
FRIDAY Seafood
*SATURDAY Family
SUNDAY Sunday Brunch & Magic Show
Monday to Saturday $16.99 per person
Sunday Brunch $25 per person
Childrens 5 to 11 years old half price
VIP/Local Discounts Apply
*Restriction Apply
Open 11am to 2pm
Live The Fiesta Way!
FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

Federal court sanctions 'vexatious litigant'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has sanctioned "vexatious litigant" John Sablan Pangelinan by ordering him to pay attorneys' fees and court costs to attorney Robert T. Torres for including the lawyer's clients in a $61.1 million lawsuit, which the court found frivolous.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood ordered Pangelinan to pay Torres $6,651 in attorneys' fees and $282 in court costs.

Tydingco-Gatewood sanctioned Pangelinan for filing the suit, which the judge deemed to be "repetitive, meritless, vexatious, abusive, and burdensome."

The judge said she has reviewed the number of hours expended on this litigation by Torres and his associate counsel and the paralegal.

The hours expended, Tydingco-Gatwood said, are reasonable given Pangelinan's numerous filings and allegations and the time necessary to respond and rebut.

She awarded Torres $2,481.25 for 14.25 hours at his rate of $175 per hour, $1,650 for 11 hours of work performed by his associate counsel, and $2,520 for 28 hours of work performed by his paralegal.

In January 2008, Pangelinan filed the $61.1 million lawsuit against judges Alex Munson and David Wiseman.

He also named as co-defendants two lawyers, a federal prosecutor, an FBI agent, two federal probation officers, two U.S. Marshals, and seven other people.

In the case he filed pro se (without a lawyer), Pangelinan also sued 13 grand jurors and 12 jurors.

Torres represented the defendants except the judges and federal employees.

In last week's order declaring him a "vexatious litigant," Tydingco-Gatewood prohibited Pangelinan from filing any lawsuit or documents in federal court that is related to a 1997 civil lawsuit filed against him.

The judge said that Pangelinan's actions "have clearly caused, and will continue to cause if not abated, needless work and expense to not only the court and its staff, but to any other party who has incurred his wrath."

She set many conditions in order for Pangelinan to be allowed to submit court documents.

On May 16, 2008, district court designated judge Juan T. Lizama ordered Pangelinan to spend 10 months in jail. Lizama revoked Pangelinan's probation in his criminal conviction for violating numerous terms and conditions of his probation.

Last month, the Guam-based Tydingco-Gatewood dismissed Pangelinan's $61.1 million lawsuit.

In that order, Tydingco-Gatewood ruled that the lawsuit "is repetitive, meritless, vexatious, abusive, and burdensome."

Tydingco-Gatewood described the plaintiff as one of the Commonwealth's most active pro se litigant.

The judge noted that court records show that Pangelinan filed 18 appeals related to matters having their genesis in the court's judgment in a 1997 case in which he was found liable to pay $270,000.

KHS class builds electronics devices

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Kagman High School electronics teacher Benjie Ladringan recently helped his students build electronic devices as part of class project assignments.

The class of 40 students—two girls and 38 boys—learned how to handle auto electrical work and cable installations, among other basic electronic applications.

"They were fast learners, bright, and they can be a big asset to companies," said Ladringan.

He said the course helped prepare the students for work in several areas. They learned how to develop technical skills that would be important for future employment.

"Electronics are important nowadays, because almost everything we use is electronic," said Ladringan, who has been teaching for 15 years. This was the first time the school offered him a chance to teach an electronic course.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kagman High School electronics teacher Benjie Ladringan poses with his electronics class students.

He thinks that electronics should be a part of the basic curriculum in schools and expressed a wish to teach more with things like digital electronics, television, and radio frequencies.

More delay in the repair of CUC engines

From Page 1

He explained that it's always the parts that cause the delay because some need to be manufactured first.

"They're not just on a shelf somewhere. Suppliers need to go to a factory and have it manufactured," Muna said.

Contractor Mitsubishi Heavy Industry is getting parts from Japan while contractor Man Diesel is ordering parts from Germany.

"We've got parts from MHI coming in in the latter part of June. We've got parts coming in from Man Diesel in mid-July," Muna said.

The parts, he said, are for engines number 1 and 7 at Power Plant 1 in Lower Base.

He believes there will also be parts for engines 4, 5, 6, and 8 on these same shipments.

Muna earlier disclosed that rolling blackouts are expected to hit Saipan until July or August as maintenance dates on engines 1 and 7 have been pushed back.

He lso apologized to the public for announcing last month that the outages would end in June 2008.

'Main supply of ice on island is from China'

From Page 1

tion. It's all that it is," said Norita in Friday's news briefing, during which he and Celes discussed the arrest last week of three Chinese men for alleged "ice" trafficking on Saipan.

Celes disclosed that based on their intelligence information and investigation, the main supply of "ice" in the CNMI is coming from China.

Celes said some in the intelligence community are also saying that the main supply is from North Korea and is being transported through Thailand.

He said the purity of the "ice" being sold in the CNMI is high because Chinese laboratories have become sophisticated at producing this type of "ice."

In the past, those arrested in the CNMI for "ice" trafficking were mostly Japanese, locals, and Filipinos. Only a few Chinese were arrested then.

Celes said that during his training in Carson City in 2006, he gathered from a lot of narcotics investigators that "ice" is now the illegal drug of choice worldwide and that Chinese makers are taking over the market with highly pure "ice."

He believes that in the United States what's being done mainly is home cooking of "ice" that is smuggled in from Mexico. The purity, however, is low at 70 to 80 percent.

In the CNMI, Celes said, the "ice" purity is 95 percent and up.

"It's rare when we get 95 percent. It's usually 98 and 99 percent. The purity is very high," he said.

Celes said "ice" in the United States is very cheap, which is why it is now the leading illegal drug being used.

Many Chinese drug traffickers were recently arrested not only Saipan but also on Tinian and Rota.

Celes said that based on their operations on Tinian, they learned that the prices of "ice" have been lowered because there is just so much supply.

"A 'plate' of ice here would probably be $50 to $70. Down on Tinian it would like $20 to $30. There's a lot," he said.

The street value of "ice" on Saipan is reportedly $500 a gram.

Fortunately, Norita said, there is no "ice" laboratory yet in the CNMI as most of the methamphetamine coming here is being shipped through cargo containers or hand-carried aboard planes.

The commissioner called on all law enforcers to work together to capture "ice" carriers at entry points such as airports and seaports "because the border tends to be the smallest amount of the funnel coming to the CNMI."

Norita said once "ice" enters the border and reaches the streets, it is more difficult for the police to pick up the drugs.

"So the emphasis is on border interdiction, the airports and seaports. To me that's the most prudent approach to interdicting methamphetamine," he said.

Norita said once these traffickers establish laboratories here, it's going to be harder for law enforcers.

"But I think right now with the [low] value, it is cheaper to ship it in rather than build up your labs and so forth," Norita said.

Doctor treats NMI kids with heart diseases

From Page 1

His one-week visit is just the beginning of what is hoped to be regular, annual visits to provide consistent care for this important population of the CNMI (children with heart disease).

The pediatric cardiology clinic was made possible with the support of CHC, which provided the airfare for Dr. Sabino.

Dr. Sabino was born and raised on the island of Saipan, having graduated from Hopwood Junior High in 1984, and Marianas High School in 1987.

He did his undergraduate training at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, before returning to teach for a few years at the Northern Marianas College.

He started his medical career at the John A. Burns School of Medicine in Hawaii in 1996, then continued on to do his residency and cardiology fellowship at the Medical College in Augusta, Georgia, until 2006.

He is presently employed by the Sibley Heart Center Cardiology, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Emory University and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta in Atlanta, Georgia.

The pediatric cardiology clinic arose out of Dr. Sabino's desires to serve the children of the CNMI. "I take vacation time from my work and come here to have a full week of clinic to treat the children of the CNMI with congenital heart and heart problems," said Dr. Sabino.

He is the son of Dr. Henaro Sabino Sr., a dentist for many years at the Commonwealth Health Center, and Mrs. Lupe Sabino, a long-time (now retired) algebra teacher at Hopwood Jr. High School.

He is happily married to Ronna Daley Sabino daughter of Anna Ludwick, and is a proud father of four beautiful children: Courtney, 10; Caleb, 5; Cai,

Oil hits new record high at $138 a barrel

From Page 1

numbers of the day: The government also reported the nation's unemployment rate zoomed to 5.5 percent in May, a monthly rise of half a percentage point, the biggest in 22 years.

Oil settled at $138.54, a rise of more than 8 percent. The surged came after Morgan Stanley analyst Ole Slorer predicted strong demand in Asia and tight supplies in the Western Hemisphere could drive prices to $150 by Independence Day, when millions of Americans take to the roads.

That means no end in sight for spiraling gas prices, already above $4 per gallon in much of the country.

Even longtime market observers were shocked by the magnitude and speed of oil's rally.

"We're ... somewhat off the map as far as historical precedents are concerned," said Jim Ritterbusch, president of energy consultancy Ritterbusch and Associates in Galena, Ill.

Besides the jump in the unemployment rate, the Labor Department said employers had cut 49,000 jobs in May, the fifth straight month of nationwide losses. Job losses for the year reached 324,000.

The White House said President Bush was considering further plans to help energize the economy, already teetering on the edge of recession and crippled by a tumbling housing market and other factors.

On Wall Street, the Dow plunged 394.64 points, more than 3 percent, to close at 12,209.81, the biggest drop in more than 15 months in both percentage and points terms.

Wall Street had managed to shrug off oil's advance on Thursday but succumbed to extreme anxiety Friday.

The stock market's great concern of late has been whether consumers would curb their spending on non-essentials as they were forced to pay more for gas and other staples.

The previously unthinkable idea of $150 oil, and gasoline that will keep climbing above $4, made it clear to investors that consumers would be forced to be even more conservative than they have been in recent months.

Before Thursday, oil had receded nearly $13 a barrel from its highs, a respite from its nearly record-every-day march. But the end of the week sent it right back up again.

The burst in oil prices also raised the prospect of accelerating inflation by adding to already strained transportation costs - which will send prices higher throughout the economy.

Light, sweet crude for July delivery officially finished the day at $138.54, up $10.75 on the Nymex. But after the settlement, the contract jumped as high as $139.12. Prices hit a previous record of $135.09 a barrel on May 22, and settled Thursday at $127.79.

'Sensor moisture caused Guam B-2 crash'

By JAYMES SONG
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii (AP)—The Air Force on Thursday said the first crash of a B-2 stealth bomber was caused by moisture in sensors and estimated the loss of the aircraft at $1.4 billion.

Maj. Gen. Floyd L. Carpenter, who headed an accident investigation board, said all procedures were followed and there was no problem with the bomber mechanically.

However, a little known and unadopted technique learned two years ago that essentially heats the sensors and evaporates any moisture before data calibrations was not performed, which would likely have prevented the crash.

"This technique was never formalized in a technical order change or captured in 'lessons learned' reports. Hence, only some pilots and some maintenance technicians knew of the suggestion," according to Carpenter's executive summary of the accident.

The report said, "The human factor of communicating critical information was a contributing factor to this mishap."

The sensors measure air pressure to help calculate everything from airspeed to altitude.

Water distorted preflight readings in three of the 24 sensors, making the aircraft's control computer force the B-2 to pitch up on takeoff, resulting in a stall and subsequent crash Feb. 23.

The "Spirit of Kansas," considered one of the finest aircraft in the Air Force, rolled and yawed to the left before plunging to the ground at Andersen Air Force Base on the island of Guam. It was returning to Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, where the 21-plane fleet is based. The crash was the first since the planes' maiden flights nearly 20 years ago.

Both pilots ejected safely just as the left wing made contact with the ground.

Because of the bad data, flight computers had inaccurate airspeed and a down angle, which contributed to an early rotation and uncontrolled 30-degree pitch up.

Carpenter said the lack of altitude and airspeed prevented the pilots from correcting the aircraft.

The Air Force grounded the B-2s and resumed flying them in late April.

"It's fortunate the crew was able to safely eject. It's unfortunate, however, that we lost one of our nation's penetrating bombers," said Gen. Carrol H. Chandler, commander of Pacific Air Forces.

Chandler said the B-2s with other Air Force bombers "maintain a continuous presence in the Pacific, underscoring our commitment to stability and security in the region."

"I believe that forward presence and the need for bombers in the Pacific is unlikely to change in the near future," he

Army reservists going back to Middle East

By FILI SAGAPOLUTELE
PACIFIC MAGAZINE

Two years after their last deployment to Iraq, the Charlie and Bravo companies of the U.S. Army Reserve in American Samoa are preparing for another tour of active duty with mobilization set for next month.

"For security reasons I can't reveal the actual date of mobilization," said Major Troy Kennedy, the commander for the local Army Reserve.

The two companies, totaling 150 reservists, are part of the 100th Battalion, 442 Infantry, and will spend about three months in the U.S. for re-training and physical check ups before deployment to the Middle East for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

No details were available as to their mobilization destination, but some soldiers believe it will be Ft. Shafter, Hawaii.

Last December the local unit was placed on alert for possible deployment. The 100th Battalion includes units in American Samoa, Oahu and Hilo (Hawaii), Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The U.S. Army Reserve in Honolulu has declined to reveal the actual destination for the Battalion once they are deployed, except to say that they are part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The media in Pago Pago has reported the troops will be based in Kuwait.

Kennedy said an official local farewell ceremony is set for July 6 in Pago Pago for the Bravo and Charlie companies. The total number of reservists that will actually be mobilized is not confirmed yet.

The Bravo and Charlie companies returned to Pago Pago in early 2006 after more than a one-year tour of active duty in Iraq. The battalion lost one of its soldiers, Staff Sgt. Frank Tiai, who was killed July 17, 2005 in Baghdad.

In preparations for the mobilization and deployment reservists have been undergoing additional training in Pago Pago and military personnel have been dispatched from Honolulu to meet with soldiers and their families.

So far a total of 16 soldiers of Samoan ancestry have lost their lives in the Iraq and Afghanistan war between 2003 and 2007, according to a tally kept by the local media and Pacific Magazine. To date this year there have been no deaths in combat.

Meanwhile, 16 members of the 400th Combat Support Platoon who had deployed to Iraq last year returned home early Wednesday morning. They were assigned to the 1015th Ordinance Company, based in Fort Hood, Texas.

The 400th is part of the 411 Engineering Detachment unit that were deployed to Iraq in early 2004 and some of the members on the last deployment were on their second tour of active duty.

Kennedy says a total of 39 local reservists were deployed but only 16 returned home. He said some soldiers are staying behind in Fort Hood for training while others on extended leave with a few getting medical screening and will be returning on a later date.

Gov. Togiola Tulafono lead the local delegation that greeted the citizen soldiers, who were met by families and friends with smiling faces and applause calling them heroes.

The official welcome home ceremony is set for July 5 at the Army Reserve Center.

OPA analyst earns fraud examiner certificate

An analyst at the Office of the Public Auditor has been earned certification from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

ACFE named Donnalynn A. Castro a certified fraud examiner on May 23, 2008 after she met strict requirements set by the professional organization.

To become a fraud examiner, Castro had to pass a rigorous examination administered by the ACFE, meet education and professional requirements, and agree to abide by the CFE Code of Professional Ethics, according to OPA.

"I could not have achieved this goal without the support and encouragement of my family and my friends. I look forward to applying what I have learned here in the CNMI," Castro was quoted as saying in an OPA media release.

The exam focuses on four topics critical to fighting fraud: criminology and ethics, financial transactions, fraud investigation, and legal elements of fraud. In addition, CFEs undergo training to understand how and why fraud occurs.

Fraud examiners have a unique set of skills that are not found in any other career field or discipline combining knowledge of complex financial transactions with an understanding of investigation, law, and how to resolve allegations of fraud, OPA said.

According to OPA, nearly 45,000 anti-fraud professionals are members of the ACFE, and more than 20,000 of them have proven their dedication to the profession by obtaining the CFE designation. The designation is acknowledged globally and preferred by employers such as the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the Government Accountability Office.

Public Auditor Mike Sablan praised Castro on her achievement. "I am so proud of Donna. I have no doubt that she can achieve anything she sets her mind to."

Castro, a graduate of the University of Texas with a B.A. in Criminology and Criminal Justice, joined OPA in August 2004. Castro also took part in a two-month auditor training program at the DOI Office of Inspector General in 2005. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Special Sunday Lunch at
AOI RESTAURANT
Festive Buffet
with Champagne, Beers and Wines
Only $18.00 for adults
$9.00 for kids ages 5 to 12 y.o.
VIP and Local Discounts Apply
Avail of our Swimming Pool facility, just ask your friendly servers
Miller Lite
Weekend Get Away
Over night Stay with Special Sunday Lunch for 2
$99.00 Plus free entrance to Club V
SGH Saipan Grand Hotel
A TanHoldings Company
For inquiries or reservation please call
234-6601 ext. 301-302
Another exciting offer from the Grand

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 160

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Dollar sense

By law, the Federal Reserve System has a dual mandate: to foster maximum sustainable employment and to fight inflation. For the past several months, Chairman Ben Bernanke has been working overtime on the first of those objectives. By swiftly slicing interest rates and offering cheap Fed credit to Wall Street investment banks for the first time in history, Bernanke has tried to prevent a financial crunch triggered by the subprime mortgage crisis from turning into a second Great Depression.

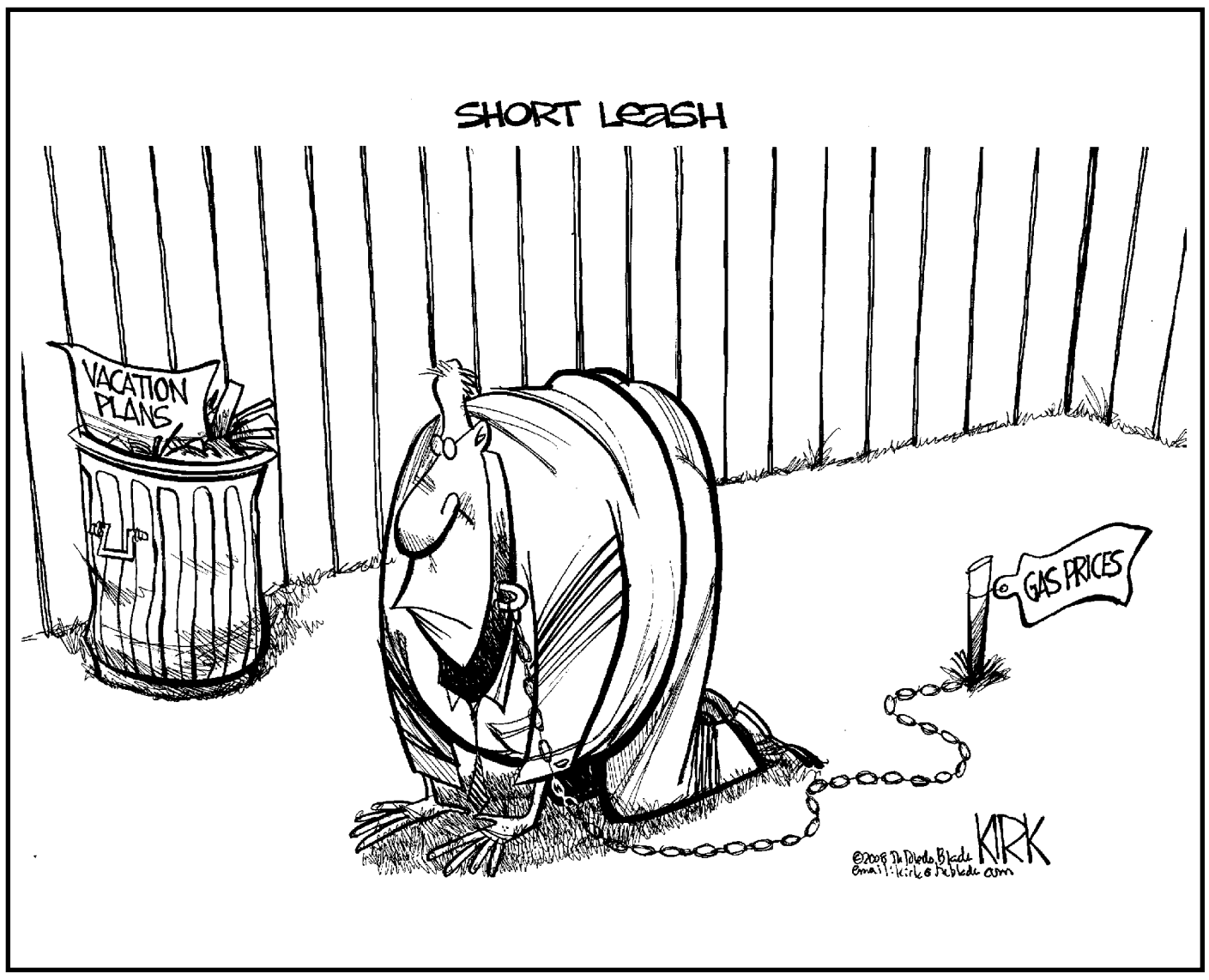
For the time being, at least, it appears he has succeeded. Though much more sluggish than it was six months ago, the U.S economy has not recorded a quarter of negative growth since the credit crunch began in August. More investors and economists are entertaining the hope that Bernanke's liquidity bath has worked and will stave off disaster long enough for the economy to work through the bad debts piled up during the housing boom.

If so, Bernanke will have done so at the cost of higher inflation, which reached an annual rate of 3.9 percent in April, well above the Fed's comfort zone. To be sure, a cheaper dollar, a direct result of Bernanke's interest rate cuts, has stimulated U.S. exports and reduced the costs of repaying foreign creditors. But in a pair of speeches this week, Bernanke implied that the cheap dollar now risks rekindling inflationary expectations — which he called a "significant concern." Inflation has probably already thwarted the $168 billion economic stimulus package, much of which will now be dissipated on imported fuel. And that is only the beginning of the havoc that price increases could wreak if they truly get out of control.

In shifting his emphasis to inflation, Bernanke tacitly recognized the wisdom of critics, including some members of the Fed's own Board of Governors, who have chided him for accepting too much inflationary risk to bail out housing. Whoever was right in that argument, and we tend to think the critics had a point, it's good news that Bernanke says that he is now on the case. His public words strongly suggested that the Fed will leave interest rates where they are for the time being. And, unusually for a Fed chief, he expressed his support for "a strong and stable" dollar.

Whether he can strike the right balance between the Fed's twin goals remains very much to be seen. To an extent not seen since the 1970s, the Fed faces an acute tradeoff between jobs and prices. An example: Bernanke supports congressional legislation to slow mortgage foreclosures, but to the extent that it succeeds, it will raise home prices — thus contributing to inflation. The economy may indeed be headed for a soft landing, as Bernanke still predicts. But there could be a bumpy ride until we get there.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



Showdown on Facebook in Egypt

By SHERIF MANSOUR
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Right now, the government of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is considering blocking Facebook, the social networking Web site that has become a popular hangout for twentysomethings worldwide and a favorite venue for Egypt's disaffected youth. The reason: In April, one group of young citizens mobilized 80,000 supporters to protest rising food prices. Facebook networking played a crucial role in broadening support and turnout for an April 6 textile workers' strike and protest.

The Egyptian government, which has governed for 25 years under emergency law and doesn't allow more than five people to gather unregistered, hit back hard, jailing young dissidents and torturing Ahmed Maher, a young activist who tried, unsuccessfully, to organize a second demonstration in early May. Despite these setbacks, the "Facebook movement" in Egypt is significant for several reasons. First, it challenges the perception that there is no prospect for independent, secular opposition in the country. The majority of Egyptians are under 30 and have known no ruler other than Mubarak. They have not seen real political parties because the government has long restricted opposition parties and free media. The Facebook movement engaged large numbers of youth for the first time.

Facebook activists are being targeted by government-based media campaigns defaming the Web site and the youth activists who use it. The government also warns media not to talk about the phenomenon. I saw the heavy-handed efforts of the government while recording a TV show with Maher. During the taping, Egyptian police broke into the studio, threatened the station manager and forced the guest outside the room.

Second, the Web offers a safe political space -- a role the mosque has traditionally played in Egypt. The Muslim Brotherhood has for decades been the only viable opposition. With Facebook, young secular people can communicate, build relationships and express their opinions freely. (Significantly, the Muslim Brotherhood opposed the successful April demonstration but supported the unsuccessful May event.) Every member in the 100,000-strong online community could be, at any given moment, a leader of a movement.

Third, engaging Egypt's youth is an important item on the agenda of Mubarak's son, Gamal, as he works to gain support for his succession to power. As a young politician, Gamal established the Future Generation Foundation in 2000, which incubated many of the current leaders of the ruling National Democratic Party and the new Cabinet. Facebook activists and their supporters should be able to turn to this group for support. A few weeks ago, Belal Diab, a 20-year-old college student, interrupted one of the Egyptian prime minister's speeches to protest the arrests of Facebook activists, shouting: "Look who are you fighting; it is us, the younger generation who stood with you and supported you!"

Nevertheless, Facebook activists are being targeted by government-based media campaigns defaming the Web site and the youth activists who use it. The government also warns media not to talk about the phenomenon. I saw the heavy-handed efforts of the government while recording a TV show with Maher. During the taping, Egyptian police broke into the studio, threatened the station manager and forced the guest outside the room.

What can be done to help this movement? The international community and the U.S. government should pressure the Egyptian government to support Internet freedom and keep Facebook accessible to Egyptians. One young activist, Ahmad Samih, is campaigning to gain local and international support to prevent the Egyptian government from blocking Facebook. So far, nearly 20 Egyptian human rights organizations are supporting this cause. International human rights organizations should publicly join in that show of support. Egyptian democrats are "Facebooking" their advocacy in order to escape heavy recriminations. It would be shameful for the international community not to stand up on their behalf against a government that seeks to deny them even that small space to express themselves. Otherwise, Mubarak's self-fulfilling prophesy as the only alternative to the Muslim Brotherhood will continue to hold Egypt back from the democracy its people deserve.

Mansour works at Freedom House, a human rights organization that has been monitoring political rights and civil liberties in Egypt since 1972.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Indefensible spending

By ROBERT SCHEER
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

What should be the most important issue in this election is one that is rarely, if ever, addressed: Why is U.S. military spending at the highest point, in inflation-adjusted dollars, than at any time since the end of World War II? Why, without a sophisticated military opponent in sight, is the United States spending trillions of dollars on the development of high-tech weapons systems that lost their purpose with the collapse of the Soviet Union two decades ago?

You wouldn't know it from the most-exhausting-ever presidential primary campaigns, but the 2009 defense budget commits the United States to spending more (again, in real dollars) to defeat a ragtag band of terrorists than it spent at the height of the Cold War fighting the Soviet superpower and what we alleged were its surrogates in the Korean and Vietnam wars.

The Pentagon's budget for fiscal year 2008 set a post-World War II record at $625 billion, and that does not include more than $100 billion in other federal budget expenditures for homeland security, nuclear weapons and so-called black budget -- or covert -- operations.

And what are we spending all this money on? We are talking high-tech war toys designed to fight a Cold War enemy that no longer exists, including the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program, with its estimated total price tag of $300 billion, and Virginia-class submarines at $2.5 billion each. Who cares that the terrorists lack submarines for the Navy to battle deep in the ocean, for which the Virginia-class submarine was designed?

Then there are the F-22 Raptor jet fighters that no longer fill a credible military purpose but will take $65 billion out of taxpayers' pockets. The Raptor includes stealth technology and elaborate electronics designed to counter threatened leaps in Soviet war-fighting capability. In 2005, Lawrence J. Korb, an assistant secretary of Defense in the Reagan administration, wrote that the Raptor "is the most unnecessary weapon system being built by the Pentagon."

Since President Bush's first year in office, according to the Government Accountability Office, the Defense Department has doubled its future planned investment in those ultra-pricey weapons from $790 billion to $1.6 trillion.

When pressed on why the massive weapons arsenal we already possess, which was credited with intimidating the Soviet Union into surrender, isn't sufficient to keep the peace in a suddenly unipolar world, defense hawks sometimes cite what they claim is an emerging threat from China. "The Chinese are designing new classes of submarines with increased capabilities," said Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn. "If we do not move to produce two submarines a year as soon as possible, we are in serious danger of falling behind."

That is nonsense. China is not even a serious regional power, as the Pentagon's 2007 report to Congress makes clear: "The intelligence community estimates China will take until the end of this decade or later to produce a modern force capable of defeating a moderate-size adversary." The report noted that "China's military is focused on assuring the capability to prevent Taiwan independence," but this last week the military threat to Taiwan gave way to a historic peace opening, with the first visit by the head of Taiwan's ruling party to the mainland since the 1949 revolution.

Oh, and here's another thing. Those Virginia-class submarines that Lieberman says are so important to our national security and for which he lobbied so hard? General Dynamics' Electric Boat Co. has received multibillion-dollar contracts to build them. The company is based in Connecticut, suggesting that the real goal here was to find an enemy -- any enemy -- that would justify spending U.S. tax dollars on weapons produced in his home state.

Since the 9/11 attacks, the United States has been on a madcap spending spree on wars and weapons having little, if anything, to do with combating terrorism, nothing to do with the imaginary threat from China and everything to do with sustaining an enormously bloated defense industry threatened with extinction because of the demise of the communist enemy. The fact is, the end of the Cold War was a welcome development for everyone except for those in the military-industrial complex whose profits and jobs, as President Eisenhower famously warned, are rooted in every congressional district.

As former President Bush noted in his 1992 State of the Union address, "communism died this year," and, he promised, "we can stop making the sacrifices we had to make when we had an avowed enemy that was a superpower. Now we can look homeward even more and set right what needs to be set right." Toward that end, he ordered his secretary of Defense, Dick Cheney, to initiate a 30 percent cut in defense spending. Gloom and doom in the military-industrial complex was palpable.

But then came what defense industry lobbyists and their many allies on both sides of the aisle in Congress came to treat as the gift of 9/11, offering dramatic imagery of a new global enemy. Fortunately for those who profit from a permanent war economy, few in government or the media were inclined to challenge the enemy bait-and-switch game that unfolded. The defense industry and the Pentagon bureaucracy that services it were all too happy to accept whatever war they could embrace, even if the new "global war on terrorism" that President Bush launched was to be fought against an enemy armed primarily with weapons that could be purchased for a few dollars at Home Depot.

The Soviets had developed the most modern arsenals, and the 9/11 hijackers were armed with box cutters, so how could we justify spending more to defeat al-Qaida than we ever did to combat the communist enemy? That is the third-rail issue that politicians and the media dread touching because of the national security hysteria generated after the 9/11 attacks. Yet no presidential candidate can be serious about cutting the federal debt, improving education, holding down taxes or paying for any of the other things that the candidates of both parties promise without cutting military spending.

Without slashing the inflated military budget, the next president, who will inherit at least a $400-billion current-accounts deficit along with debt service on seven years of profligate military spending, will not be able to finance any of the domestic reforms that both the surviving Republican candidate and his two Democratic opponents advocate.

Maybe one can make a case that it is appropriate that more than half of the discretionary funds in the 2009 budget go to defense, and all the other federal programs for science, education, infrastructure, global warming and nonmilitary international programs compete for the rest. But isn't it bizarre that the biggest peacetime military budget in U.S. history -- 35 percent higher than when Bush came into office and larger than the military budgets of all other nations combined -- is not even discussed in the current presidential contest?

That is because politicians from both parties are complicit in the waste of taxpayer dollars on weapons systems that deliver jobs to their home districts and profits to their defense industry campaign contributors. It is a disease of our political system predicted by two of our great wartime generals-turned-president. First was George Washington, warning in his farewell address that once a nation embarks on the path of imperial adventure, the irrationality of false patriotic appeals would trump reason. What better time to recall Washington's historic caution to the nation "to guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism."

In Eisenhower's farewell address, he warned that "in the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist."

There is no better evidence of the prescience of Washington and Eisenhower than the fact that the most obscenely bloated military budget in U.S. history is not an issue in the current presidential campaign. Sadly, defense spending has become enshrined in our political system as a totem to be worshiped rather than a policy program to be critically examined.

Scheer, who wrote an opinion column for the Los Angeles Times *for 13 years, is the editor in chief of Truthdig (truthdig.com) and the author, most recently, of* The Pornography of Power: How Defense Hawks Hijacked 9/11 and Weakened America, *which was published this week by Twelve Books.*

The Tobacco Tribe: They're still people

By JEANNE MARIE LASKAS
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

"No smoking under canopy," the sign says, so we have moved a few yards to the left. I'm leaning on the window of a Subway sandwich shop, wondering about the sidewalk, the boundaries, the difference between the smokers from Subway and the smokers from the office building with the canopy.

This is my second consecutive day living as a smoker in a post-smoking America. I am not doing the smoking, just hosting an out-of-town guest who is in constant need of the outdoors so he can light up. It is inconvenient. It is all desperation and shame. At least that's what I have observed. This morning we were in the smoking area behind the office building, where we're working on a project, by the dumpsters. A rat walked by, so we left.

"Does it bother you to find yourself hanging out with rats and dumpsters?" I asked my friend.

He laughed. Like every other smoker I know, he said, "Yeah, I should quit."

So, now we are in the front of the building by the Subway. The sun is out, a pretty day. An overhanging pot of petunias threatens to clunk us on the head. People on cellphones zoom by, and if they look our way, I feel, or imagine, scorn. "No!" I want to say, "it's not me! I'm not smoking!" Putting aside obvious questions of health, nicotine addiction and second-hand smoke, I'm getting a crash course in what it feels like to be an outcast.

Last I left off with smoking, back in the 1980s, it was an integrated thing. I don't remember ever having to go anywhere to smoke. I remember grad school professors who let you smoke in class, and I remember lighting up on airplanes. Smoking was fun. Everyone had a cigarette burn somewhere on the seat of his or her car. We smoked out of boredom and because it seemed to go with drinking beer. It wasn't very complicated. Out here by the Subway, everyone in our little smoking group is silent. I want to ask them questions. I want to know if it's worth the inconvenience, how they justify the habit. I want to know what they do in the rain, how they manage umbrellas, matches. I want to know if they smoke in front of their children, or if they hide somewhere out by the garage. We have marginalized these people. I have to wonder if it's a good thing. I know, we should probably wag our fingers at them, tell them they have marginalized themselves. Outcasts! Do they find some appeal in the role?

A woman in a business suit has joined us from the office building, and a kid in shorts with a sun tattoo on his calf has come out of Subway and lit up. "Thought it was supposed to rain today," the woman says. "I hope so, because I finally got my grass seed down." Soon, we are all talking grass seed. Shade. Fescue. Kentucky Blue. The woman says she has a patch of exposed dirt on account of her dog. We talk dogs. The kid with the tattoo has not entered the conversation. My friend is right in there. An older guy with a gut and suspenders is listening, tapping ashes, listening, and finally says: "Well, I wish I still had a yard. My wife moved us into a retirement place. Do I look like I'm retired?" No, we tell him, he doesn't. He says the retirement place isn't really that bad. Except he had to give his dog away. No pets allowed.

"That sucks," the kid with the tattoo says. "Man, that really sucks."

"It's all right," the older guy says, lighting another cigarette. "It's all workable."

We stand in the silence, as you do in the aftermath of a lie.

A skinny woman in heels walks up. "It says no smoking under canopy," she says, pointing to the sign.

The smokers look at her. Is anyone going to say anything? Apparently not. "The canopy is over there," I say, feeling like Jesus defending the lepers. "And we're over here."

"The smoke is getting sucked in under the canopy," the woman says, pointing up. We all look up. I don't see anything. I give her a glare like, Come on, lady. Like, Your sanctimony is most unbecoming. The smokers simply slide, as if this is nothing new, farther toward Subway. I stay in my spot, out of some principle I don't quite understand since I am not smoking.

The small shove from the self-righteous one opens all the smokers to more talking. And more cigarettes. My friend is laughing and going on and on about what he thinks of our fair city. We learn that the tattoo kid is studying economics. A plump woman beside him lost her "sucky" job yesterday and refuses to cry. One guy is a lawyer, and one guy works at the Jiffy Lube down the road, and his wife wants him to go on a diet. We tell him he doesn't look fat.

A guy cradling a laptop walks up. "It says no smoking under canopy," he says. I can't believe this. I look at the guy, then at all my new friends, and feel a thousand complicated apologies.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼75°

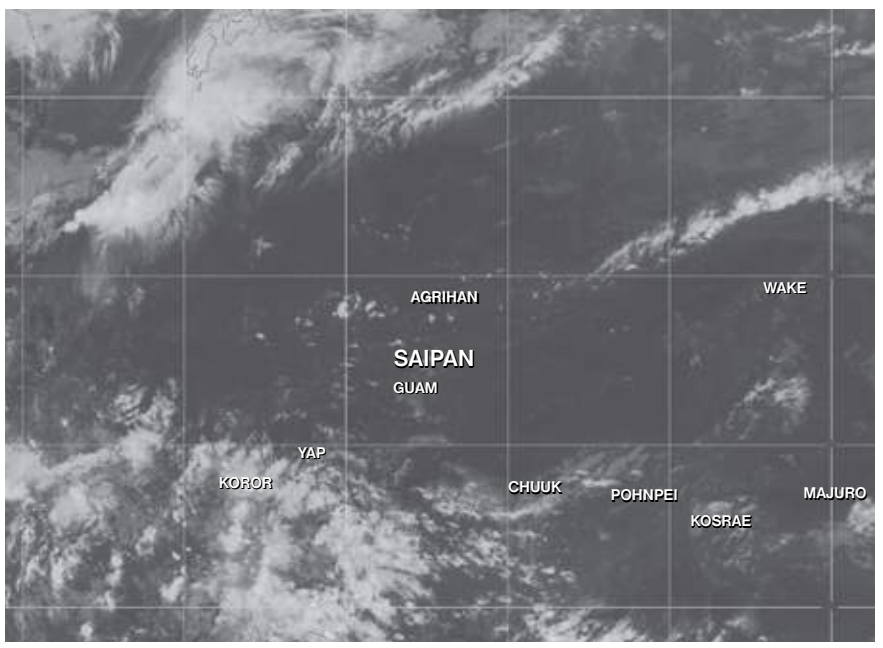
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Clear	▲88	▼73
Palau	Cloudy	▲80	▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲80	▼75
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲86	▼76
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼73
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲52	▼52
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼72
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲80	▼74
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼75
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲68	▼55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲78	▼60
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Melbourne	Rain	▲61	▼50
Miami	Showers	▲87	▼76
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲94	▼74
Osaka	Cloudy	▲78	▼63
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼54
Pusan	Cloudy	▲82	▼63
Rome	Cloudy	▲73	▼55
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲64	▼46
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲70	▼51
Seoul	Showers	▲73	▼59
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲74	▼65
Washington, DC	Hot	▲98	▼76

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Palau and south of Yap, or south of a line from 10N130E to 5N144E to EQ145E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers from near Kosrae to south of Majuro, within 100 miles of a line from 6N162E to 4N168E to 5N175E. A large tutt cell centered near 16N158E dominates most of the area east of the Marianas between 12N and 21N. This feature is responsible for the large area of fair weather north of eastern Micronesia. A stationary front extends southwest from 25N168E to 20N157E. Scattered rain and showers are located with 60 miles of the front.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:30AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
8:59AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
4:40PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46AM	6:46 PM
Monday	5:46AM	6:47 PM
Tuesday	5:46AM	6:47 PM
Wednesday	5:46AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	5:46AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:04AM	11:03PM
Monday	10:59AM	11:43PM
Tuesday	11:52AM	
Wednesday	12:41PM	12:20AM
Thursday	1:29PM	12:55AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

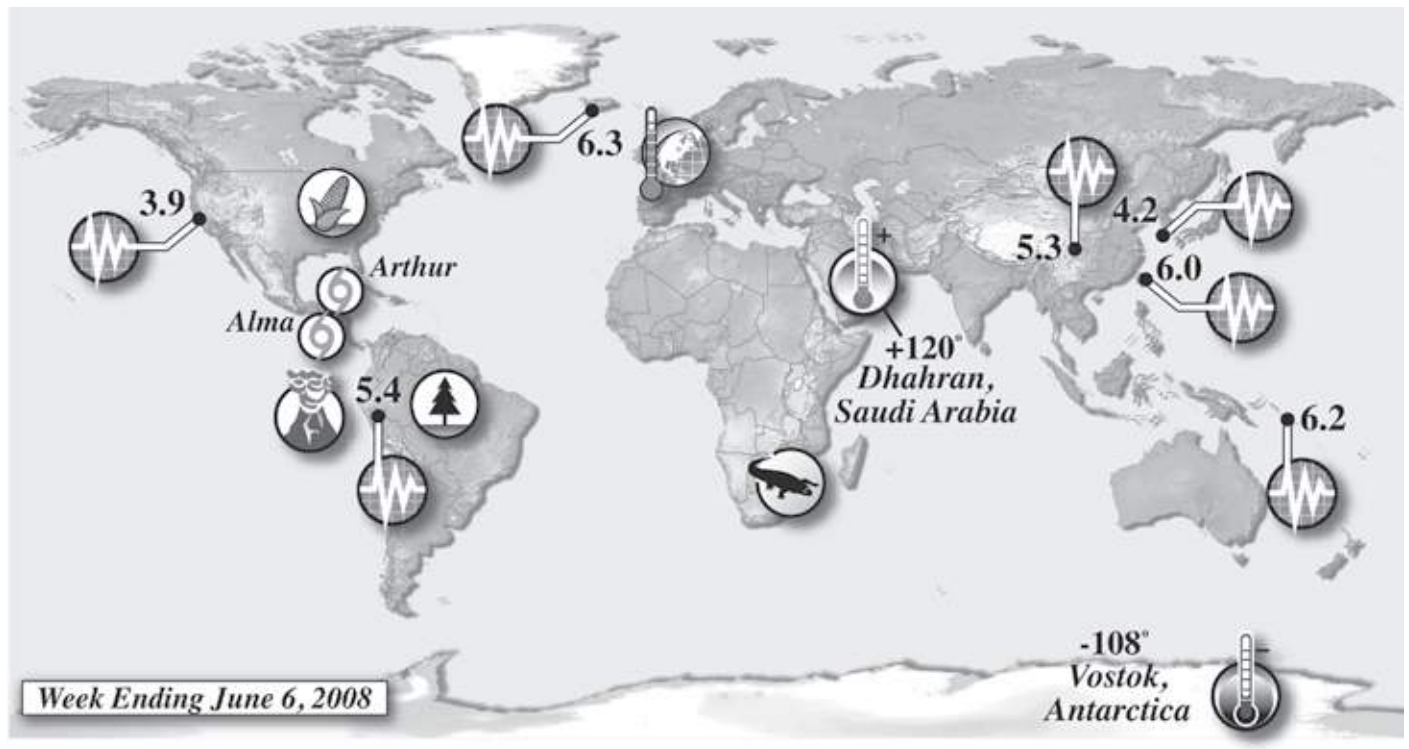
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By STEVE NEWMAN



Amazon Deforestation

The Brazilian government scrambled to divert criticism of its failure to protect the Amazon rain forest after the country's space agency revealed that a massive increase in deforestation occurred during April. Brazil's National Space Research Institute, which uses satellites to survey the country, announced that 437 square miles of rain forest had been cut down or burned, compared to only 56 square miles lost during the previous month of March. Greenpeace said that high world prices for soy and beef, two of the country's largest exports, were the reason Amazon farmers accelerated the clearing of forest. The environmental group accused the government of caving in to agricultural concerns by not enforcing conservation measures. Less than two years ago, the government in Brasilia announced that the rate of deforestation was declining, and highlighted the arrests of corrupt environmental protection agency agents accused of falsifying logging certificates to aid illegal logging operations.

Corn Belt Dilemma

Farmers across many parts of the U.S. Corn Belt grappled with whether to bother replanting crops after a cool and soggy spring that has damaged or even prevented their corn from sprouting. Last week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said that corn emergence was only 52 percent, far below the five-year average of 76 percent. This year's crop losses come as grain is selling at record prices due to the increased demand for corn-based ethanol. Agronomists predict that the crop losses will result in consumers spending even more this year for groceries and any meat that relies on corn as a feed.

Crocodile Deaths

A group of animal experts and wildlife officials rushed to South Africa's Kruger National Park to find out what has suddenly killed at least 30 crocodiles in the refuge within a week's time. The first carcasses were sighted on May 27, then helicopter searches found many more littering the Olifants River, the park's most polluted waterway. While no dead fish or other animals were found, all of the dead crocodiles contained yellow-orange hardened fat in their tails — usually a sign of eating rotten fish. "We are in unknown territory, and we certainly don't have the answers as to why these crocodiles seem to be dying, so we need to look at the problem closely and find a solution," Danie Pienaar, head of scientific services for the park, said in the statement.

Galapagos Eruption

Lava flowed for four days from a volcano on one of the Galapagos Islands, but wildlife officials say it was moving in the opposite direction from a colony of rare giant tortoises that live in the unique nature reserve. The last time Cerro Azul spewed lava was in 1998, when several of the tortoises were airlifted out of danger but others were burned by the flows.

Earthquakes

A strong earthquake that rocked Iceland on the afternoon of May 29 damaged roads and buildings in one town while sending frightened residents across the North Atlantic island running into the streets.

■ Earth movements were also felt in China's aftershock zone, Taiwan, the Solomon Islands, South Korea, central Peru and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Tropical Cyclones

Tropical Storm Alma caused moderate damage and killed three people as it tore across northwestern Nicaragua and neighboring Honduras, uprooting power lines and ripping the roofs off of homes. Outer bands from the first such Pacific storm to strike Central America since 1949 also caused flash flooding well to the south in Costa Rica.

■ Tropical Storm Arthur formed from the remnants of Alma over the western Caribbean, then caused flash flooding that killed at least seven people in Belize.

Greenhouse 'Scrubbers'

The scientist who coined the term "global warming" in the 1970s has proposed a radical scheme to combat rapid climate change—forests of artificial trees designed to pull carbon dioxide (CO_2) from the air. Wallace Broecker is a professor at Columbia University and a researcher at Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. He told those attending a literary festival in Wales that some 60 million of the scrubbing devices would be needed to capture all of the CO_2 currently emitted, which would then be compressed and stored underground or turned into a solid. Broecker's proposed towers would be about 15 metres high and use a type of plastic that absorbs the greenhouse gas. "OK, you say that's enormous, but we make 55 million cars a year, so if we really wanted to, we could. Over 30 or 40 years we could easily make that number," Broecker said. He believes the most convenient locations to place the towers would be in remote desert areas.

Distributed by: Universal Press Syndicate
www.earthweek.com
© MMVIII Earth Environment Service

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Pa. crews rescue nude man stuck in portable potty

LEBANON, Pa. (AP)—Rescue crews had to cut apart a portable toilet to rescue a man who got stuck naked inside the potty. Authorities say the 31-year-old man used his cell phone to call 911 on Sunday from inside a portable toilet. Police say the man had been drinking and had taken off his clothes. Somehow, he immersed himself in the holding tank. Deputy fire commissioner Chris Miller told WPMT-TV, "I've been on the job in one form or fashion for 21 years, and this is the first port-a-potty rescue I've ever had." Police charged the man with public drunkenness and creating a health code violation, but they have no idea why he was in the toilet with his clothes off. They said he didn't suffer any serious injuries.

Wyo. festival to offer chances to dunk a Democrat

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP)—Republicans will get a rare opportunity this weekend to show that the Democrats are all wet. All they need is $5 and a good throwing arm. Four Democratic candidates for federal office have volunteered to get dunked in chilly water at the annual Jackalope Days festival in Douglas, about 115 miles north of Cheyenne. When someone hits a target with a softball at the "Dunk a Democrat" booth, in will go House candidate Gary Trauner, or Senate hopefuls Chris Rothfuss, Nick Carter or Keith Goodenough. The money will go to the Converse County Democratic Party. "It's a commitment. It's a sacrifice. It's one of those things that needs to be done if we're serious about this election," said Bill Luckett, executive director of the state Democratic Party. Last year's event yielded $400. The party hopes to double that amount this year. State Rep. Dave Edwards, a Republican, said he might watch, but not give it a shot. "That would be me contributing to their campaign," he said. The county has about a 4-to-1 ratio of registered Republicans to registered Democrats.

Good Housekeeping

Split-level surprise

By CRAIG NAKANO
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Architect Jesse Bornstein's "split-plane" design at his Santa Monica, Calif., home has a central stairway linking the three main levels. One of the design elements is an office apart from the rest of the house, left, so work and family life stay separate.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

From the airy entry at the front of the house, a half-flight of stairs guides visitors up to the children's bedrooms and family room, where this picture was taken, set at the back of the property. Another half-flight of steps leads up to the kitchen and main living and dining areas.

SANTA MONICA, Calif.— Consider all the potential architectural solutions for modern living, and the split-level house hardly seems an obvious candidate—not to the average person who summons the image of some postwar dwelling that appears half-sunken in quicksand, its tiny basement windows barely poking aboveground, the front door opening to dual sets of stairs and the immediate puzzle: Do I go up? Or do I go down?

There is no such confusion in the Santa Monica home of Jesse Bornstein. Rather than a traditional two-story house, the architect's "split-plane" design calls for half-flights of stairs to separate three levels: the main living and dining areas, the children's bedrooms and family room, and the master suite and sitting room. The open stairwell serves as the house's spine, cleverly keeping the interiors free-flowing yet divided into distinct rooms.

The result embodies what so many people seek: more living space without the McMansion effect; light-filled rooms that feel connected to the outdoors yet still private; and a modern look that comes off as neither cold nor industrial. And all on a tight, sloping lot.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Olivia, left, and Kalia Bornstein relax in the glassed-in family room.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Shaun Bornstein works in the kitchen; stairs, left, lead to the master suite.

"It's breaking down the box and breaking preconceived notions of what a house should be like," Bornstein says. "It really obscures the conventional notion of floor plates stacked one on top of another."

The house is a case study for anyone coping with the challenges of urban living. Here's a look at five common design dilemmas and how this one house addresses them all:

1. Walk into enough modern houses these days and you'll probably come upon the open-floor plan taken to an extreme: a vast, wall-less space that feels more like a convention hall than a home. Try to relax with a good book in the study, and you can't escape the din of "CSI" at the other end of the house. Host a simple dinner party and you find there's no hiding clutter when living, dining and sleeping areas flow together in a door-less layout.

Bornstein's split-plane design solves those dilemmas. Center stringer stairs—steps with a single support beam underneath and no riser, for a more open look—guide visitors into the home's entry and up through its core. "There's the same sort of formula and language going on," Bornstein says, adding that using the same style of stairs from the sidewalk to the top floor makes traveling through the entire property an orderly and logical procession.

The ground floor consists of two kids' bedrooms and a family room, all set in the back half of the property. Climb half a flight of stairs to the front half of the house, and you find the heart of the home: the kitchen, dining area and living room. Climb another half-flight of stairs, back toward the rear of the house, and you come upon a quiet sitting room, a small meditation area and the master suite.

The result is a layout where stairs play the psychological role of walls, separating spaces yet allowing natural light, air and people to flow freely. Standing in the kitchen, Bornstein can monitor the kids as they play in the family room downstairs yet still feel as though he's in a different domain. Walk toward the master suite and a narrowing staircase provides a clue that you're transitioning from public to private space.

When Bornstein and wife Shaun want more division, pocket doors slide out to partition virtually every room in the house. If company comes over, for example, the couple can close off the ground floor and lead guests up to the main living and dining areas without worrying if the family room is tidy. Bornstein says the partitions are open 90 percent of the time, but in the rare instances when they are closed, white translucent glass allows natural light to pass through.

"The kids love this multilevel thing as much as the adults do, perhaps more," says Bornstein, who took the split-plane idea even further: Above the bathroom sandwiched between two bedrooms for daughters Olivia, 9, and Kalia, 11, he created a bonus play area that the girls can reach from ladders in either bedroom. "We have our sitting room above the kitchen," Bornstein says, "and they have their loft space as well."

2. Walk through Bornstein's house for the first time, and the biggest surprise is just how much room unfolds before your eyes. Given the structure's modest presence from the street, you don't expect 4,655 square feet of living space on the 8,000-square-foot lot, an illusion helped by shed roofs that follow the grade of the land, helping the house to feel naturally scaled to the site.

The multiple levels are a large factor in the feeling of spaciousness, but smaller gestures contribute as well. The sitting room on the top floor could have been enclosed in drywall or left totally open as a mezzanine overlooking the kitchen. Instead, Bornstein chose a happy medium: a large pass-through lets natural light and fresh air into the space. Stand up and you can see the kids having breakfast at the counter below; sit down and you're ensconced in a quiet, cozy reading nook.

So many built-in cabinets and shelves have been placed unobtrusively at every level of the house, you'll actually witness that California rarity: unused storage.

"It's a luxury to have this space," says Shaun Bornstein, a former aerospace engineer who manages her husband's architectural practice. She motions to bamboo bookcases, some still empty, lining the top-floor sitting room. "I feel like I can breathe."

Space also was a factor for Resa and Tom Nikol, who commissioned Bornstein to double the size of their 1950s Mar Vista home. The result, they say, is a distinctly modern yet livable space for them and their kids, 9 and 12.

"The outside is subtle but architecturally beautiful," says Tom, creative director for the print advertising group at Sony Pictures Television, who wanted the house to sing, not scream. "It's not overbuilt in terms of its presence from the street."

3. Glass walls and titanic sliding doors are tempting, but some homeowners discover all too late that a wide view isn't necessarily a good view. When the daily panorama is a power-line-filled sky, the neighbor brushing his teeth or the stares of passing motorists, all that glass quickly becomes a curse.

The trick, of course, is controlling the view: connecting to the landscape without feeling overly exposed to the outside world. In the Bornsteins' house, every room connects to nature—from the glassed-in family room looking out to a ring of timber bamboo, to the master

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The master bedroom's abundant built-in drawers and shelves, all done in plywood bamboo.

See SURPRISE on Next Page

SURPRISE

From Page 10

bathroom, where tops of those towering "Bambusa oldhamii" sway in the windows.

"You're not looking at anything except the green out there," Bornstein says from the bathroom. "In the morning, during certain times of year especially, you get the morning light coming in—that sunrise—and it sets the whole thing aglow."

In the main living area, window glass is flush with the ceiling and the roof outside runs flat. "There's this horizontal plane effect, which to my way of thinking extends the eye into the landscape," Bornstein says. "Your eye is drawn out further because there's no header."

In contrast, the architect gently sloped the ceiling down on another side of the room, so the whole space feels more intimate. Bornstein uses the terms "containment" and "inversion" to describe the design, but the average person will simply feel the effect: the expansiveness of the view opening in the distance, and the pleasant feeling of being wrapped—sheltered from the noise and eyes of the outside world and beyond.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Half-flights of stairs create spacious, free-flowing rooms that don't sacrifice privacy.

4. It may be a sore point for some purists, who groan at the contention that some modern homes come off as overly cold, perhaps even corporate.

"During home tours, that's the one thing people comment on the most," Shaun says. "They say, 'For a modern home, it's very warm.'"

The first factor at play is the palette of materials. Sustainably harvested machiche, a red-tinged South African wood that's twice as hard as oak, runs up the stair treads, through the main living space and across the second-floor sun deck.

All the case work, including kitchen cabinetry, bedroom built-ins and bathroom vanities, were constructed of amber-hued Plyboo, or bamboo plywood. The consistent approach, Bornstein says, helps the space to feel like a unified design.

All walls are white, but with a subtle sheen and texture. Light and shadow change hour to hour, room to room.

"This is the poor man's Venetian plaster," Bornstein says, running his fingers over the Diamond finish that has been troweled onto blue board, similar to standard drywall. The trowel marks give the material depth and warmth—"a craft quality," he says.

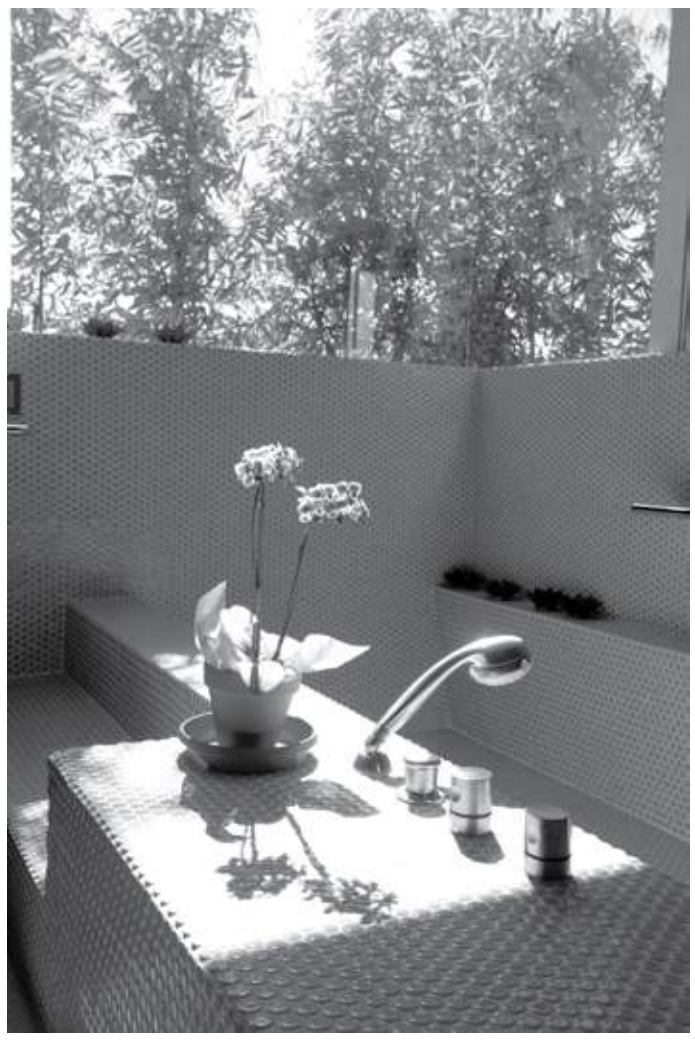
Linearity—the way the stairs, roof lines, even floorboards run in the same direction, like the grain in a piece of wood—lend a sense of synchronization, as though the pieces were always meant to fit together.

5. The home office is a paradox: how to make it a convenient place to work yet keep it as separate as possible from the rest of the house?

For Bornstein, like a growing number of homeowners, the answer is a separate entrance. The office sits on the ground floor overlooking the street, separated from the main living areas by the garage and reached through its own exterior door.

"There's a greater degree of separation," says Bornstein, who must walk out of the house for the 20-step commute to the office. "You feel like you're going to work."

And you feel like you're leaving work when the day is over. Twenty steps and you're back near those machiche-lined stairs, ushered back into the comfort of home.



LOS ANGELES TIMES

The timber bamboo rises to the top-floor master bathroom, where it lends another touch of nature.

THIS IS A HAMMER

Paint-brush hassle

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA

(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: When I have a painting task around the house, sometimes I don't get finished with it in the same day (or even the same weekend). I get really frustrated because I spend so much time cleaning brushes. Is there a faster way to clean up so I'm not so burnt out for the next day's painting?—Greg L., via e-mail

A: If you're breaking for a few hours or overnight, there are a couple of methods to keep the brushes soft without having to clean them.

When it's time to break, wipe the wet brushes on the edges of the paint can or tray to drain off as much excess paint as possible. Then, try one of these two tips:

■ Store the brushes in a plastic sandwich bag. If you are using latex paint for the job, add about a teaspoon of vinegar to the bag. Tie the bag shut with string or a rubber band wrapped around the handle.

■ Refrigerate them: Wrap brushes in aluminum foil or place in a plastic bag and place in a refrigerator for up to eight hours. If you can't start the project until next weekend, place the wrapped brushes in the freezer, then thaw them out the night before resuming the paint job.

To clean brushes without as much elbow grease, suspend them in paint thinner for a half-hour to two hours. Attach the brush to a flat wooden paint stirrer (another reason to grab lots of these at the paint store) using a rubber band, and slide the stirrer into a can of thinner so that the bristles are submerged in the thinner.

home tip

HOME TIP: To restore a paintbrush that is stiff with dried paint, boil it in white vinegar for about 15 minutes, then cool and comb out the bristles with a wire brush.

Send questions or home-repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

KITCHEN MAGIC

Bourbon-Marinated Steak

A sweetly spiced marinade adds flavor and tenderness to classic grilled flank steak.

1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 cup bourbon whiskey
1/3 cup soy sauce
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
1 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper
1/4 teaspoon hot pepper sauce
2 flank steaks (about 1 1/2 pounds each), well trimmed*

1. Prepare marinade: In jumbo self-sealing plastic bag (2 gallons), mix 1 cup water with all ingredients except steaks.

2. Add steaks, turning to coat. Seal bag, pressing out excess air. Place bag in shallow glass baking dish and refrigerate at least 4 hours or overnight, turning bag occasionally.

3. Remove steaks from marinade. Discard marinade. Place steaks on grill over medium heat and cook 15 to 20 minutes for medium-rare or until of desired doneness, turning once. (Or, preheat broiler and place steaks on rack in broiling pan. Broil steaks at closest position to source of heat 15 to 20 minutes for medium-rare.)

4. Transfer steaks to warm large platter, let stand 10 minutes for easier slicing. To serve, cut into thin slices. Makes 12 servings.

*Or, use 2 beef top round steaks, about 1 1/2 inches thick (about 1 1/2 pounds each). Follow recipe for flank steaks, but grill or broil 25 to 30 minutes for medium-rare or until of desired doneness.

(c) 2008 Hearst Communications, Inc.

TONY ROMA'S
RIBS · SEAFOOD · STEAKS
Thanks Big Daddy
Special Course
Available from
Sunday, June 1st to Sunday, June 15
Free Wi-Fi Available
Complimentary Bottle of Carlsberg Beer
Cup of Soup of the Day
Cup of Caesar Salad
3 Pieces of Potato Skins
Certified Angus Beef New York Strip & Original Baby Back Ribs Combo with Two Sides
Only $33.99
1st floor, Comete Center, Garapan • Tel. 233-9193 or 233-9195 • Open from 11:00 am to 10:30 pm

The Good Life

Abel Izaguirre, 37, created Locsters, graphic depictions of urban Los Angeles on a small scale. Izaguirre, who grew up in South Los Angeles where his brothers fell victim to the streets, used art—initially graffiti—as his escape.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Tiny tributes to an urban home

By SCOTT GOLD
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—To those new to street art, there are aspects of Abel Izaguirre's empire might surprise and alarm. Many of the 37-year-old artist's designs are callous celebrations of guns and dice, turf and cognac—of the gangster life that defines and afflicts so much of the metropolitan area. They appear on everything from shoes to skateboards to, by special request, caskets.

On one of Izaguirre's T-shirts, Ben Franklin—Founding Father, inventor of the bifocal, et cetera—points a Beretta pistol into the viewer's eyes. On another, a skeleton's hands are clasped in prayer in front of an ominous vision of the L.A. skyline. "Perdoname por mi vida loca," that one says. "Forgive me for my crazy life."

One piece of Izaguirre's portfolio stands out. They are toys, 2-inch-tall figurines marketed to children, and they comprise a startlingly graphic and cynical depiction of urban Los Angeles. They're called Locsters.

One, named "Vago"—that's Spanish for lazy bum, basically—has been forced to his knees during a police raid. Smirking, his hands are clasped behind his head, revealing the words "TUFF LUCK" tattooed in gothic print on his forearms.

There is "Bat Boy," named for the baseball bat in his hand; it's unclear what the bat is for, but from the look on his face, it isn't baseball.

"Clever," a graffiti artist, is concealed by a hooded sweat shirt, spray paint in hand. "Lucky" is rolling dice on a street corner, a wad of cash in his hand.

There are 42 in all, seven sets of six, with more to come. There are four dogs, one a lunging police K-9. There are three cops, all with their guns drawn. There are four women. The rest are men. They are all Hispanic, except for one white man, a vagrant, and two blacks, both named Choco.

This, Izaguirre contends, is his valentine to South L.A.

He was born in rural San Luis Potosi, Mexico. He was the second of seven siblings and the oldest son. His mother, Esperanza, named him Abel, because the biblical Abel, before he was killed by his brother, was a good and righteous boy.

His father had gone to the United States without them, and they rarely heard from him. Esperanza had to borrow money to feed her children. "One day," Izaguirre said, "she just came home and said: `We're leaving. We're going to look for your dad.' " Coyotes sneaked them in near Tijuana, through a tunnel full of water up to his knees. The smugglers had no flashlight, just matches. When those ran out, they ran through the tunnel with their arms stretched into the darkness. He was 8 years old.

When they found Izaguirre's father, he turned out to have a second, secret family in Los Angeles. But he agreed to help them find a place to live, and the family—which later secured legal residency status—moved into a one-bedroom apartment. It was the birthplace, in a sense, of the Locsters.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Abel Izaguirre plays with his four children in the new swimming pool at their Chino Hills, Calif., home. "In Mexico, we used to swim in the mud when it rained hard," he said.

Izaguirre started working at 10, selling sweet bread and tortillas door to door for a bakery. Still, they celebrated no birthdays or Christmas. "We had nothing," he said—nothing but the streets, which began to pick off the Izaguirre boys, one by one.

One brother was arrested on drug and weapons charges, which brought a 10-year prison term. Another is serving 15 years to life for shooting a high school classmate. He had been shot at the night before by members of a rival gang. Knowing he was going to get jumped, he tried to ditch school the next day; his mother made him go.

"So he got one of the guys before they could get him," Izaguirre said.

Izaguirre offers no apologies for his brothers' decisions.

"My brothers are the greatest people in the world," he said. "You put them in a corner, and there's no other way. They fight back. In South-Central you don't call the police. We protect our own."

Luis, the youngest of the five boys, was killed in 1995, shot nine times after a dispute at a market, where he had gone to buy chips and candy. He was 15.

Izaguirre chalks up his survival to a combination of luck, guts and guile.

"But the truth is, I don't know why he's different," his mother, now 65, said in Spanish. "We live among the gangs here. Some boys join. Some boys don't."

Art was his refuge. His medium of choice was spray paint. He would ride the bus to lots wedged behind warehouses or railroad tracks. These "yards" were known only to a small cadre of accomplished graffiti artists, not the kind who tag on the run but the kind who paint large and colorful—though no less illegal—murals.

"We didn't get hassled by the cops. It was our own little world," Izaguirre said. "I really thought I was going to grow old doing graffiti."

But after he dropped out of high school, Izaguirre discovered that it did not pay the bills.

Izaguirre started designing T-shirts, then painting designs on cars. He designed a line of skate shoes and sold 200,000 pairs. He designed the logo for "Monster Garage," the Discovery Channel show. About 10 years ago he partnered with the owner of a hobby company and began making toys, including Locsters. More than 3 million figurines have been sold in markets, toy stores and record shops.

Izaguirre can't figure out why anyone would make a fuss over them. Perhaps that's why Izaguirre has received only a handful of complaints, although Locsters are—he says proudly—the most graphic urban figurines to date.

Many of his characters, he said, are based on real people from South L.A., like "Tattoo Tony," who comes with an ink gun in hand.

"South-Central is in my veins," Izaguirre said, and in that sense, his Locsters are a mere tribute. Even the most intimidating Locsters, he said, are just trying to survive another day, just "posing," he said, so they'll be left alone.

"Everybody who grows up in the ghetto, they're all good people," he said. "Nobody is born a gangster."

In 2000, Izaguirre left South L.A. and bought a four-bedroom, 2,500-square-foot house in Chino Hills, about 30 miles east. The boy from San Luis Potosi would barely recognize this life.

He rented space in a nondescript office park, where nearby streets are lined with baby magnolia trees. He keeps a close eye on China's labor movement, which has bumped up import costs.

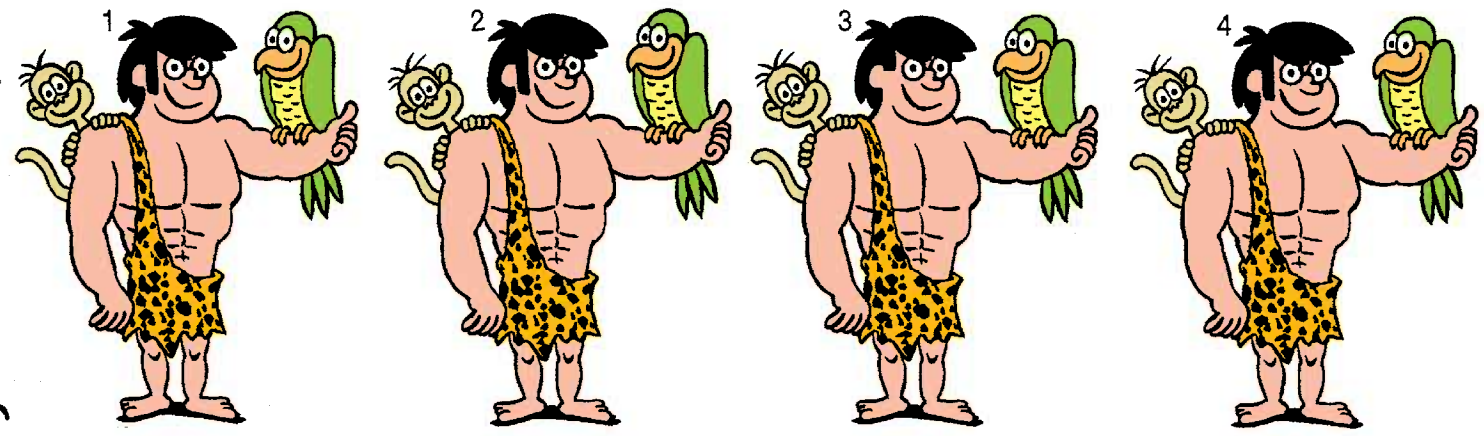
"I have an IRA," he said, still surprised.

Izaguirre is a father of four—three daughters and a 13-year-old son, whom he takes deep-sea fishing in Cancun. His fans know him as O.G. Abel; "O.G." is common street vernacular for "Original Gangster," but his kids say it means "Old Guy." He recently added a pool to the house, 6 1/2 feet at the deep end.

"In Mexico, we used to swim in the mud when it rained hard," he said. "I'm just living the American dream."

Bob Weber Jr.'s Slylock Fox and Comics for Kids

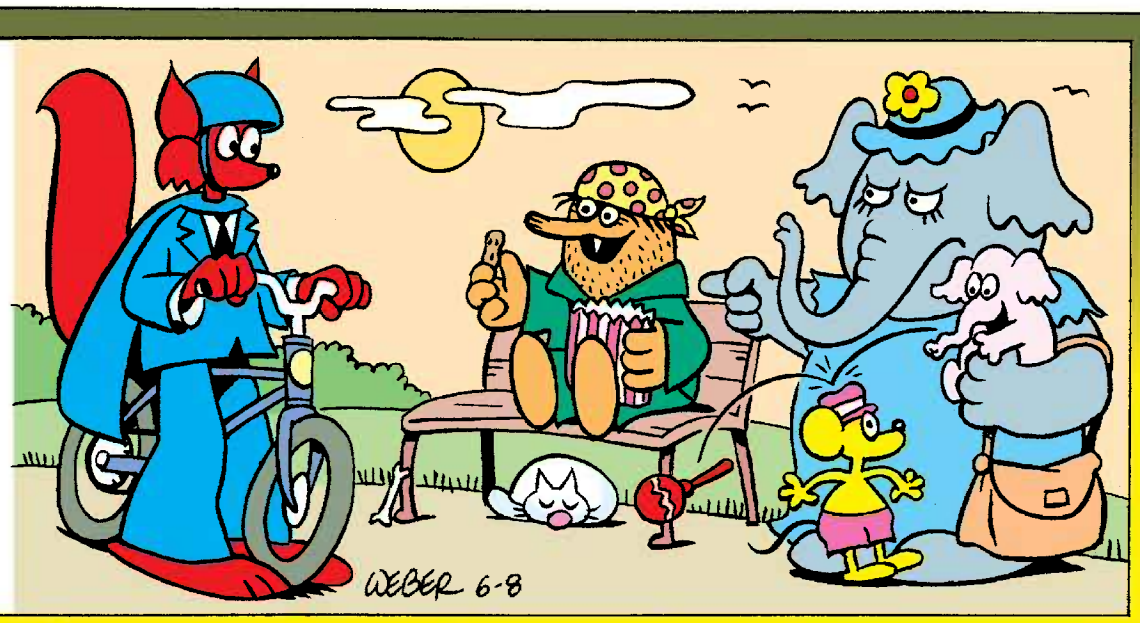
Which two scenes are exactly alike?



Answer -- Numbers two and four.

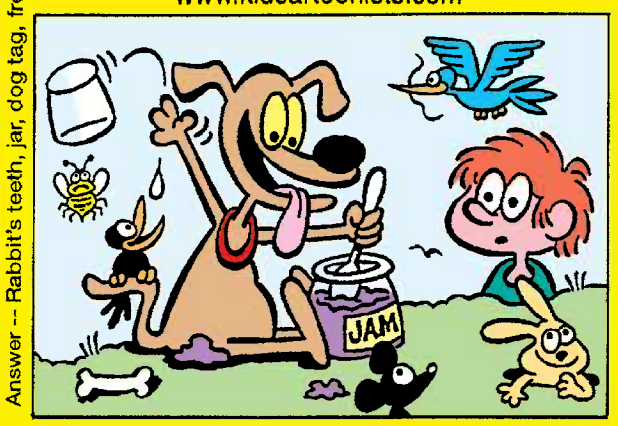
Polly Pachyderm says a bag of peanuts was stolen from her porch just five minutes ago. She is convinced Shady Shrew is the nut-nabber. But Shady claims he bought these peanuts and has been sitting here eating them for twenty minutes. Why does Slylock Fox think Shady Shrew is lying?

Solution -- If Shady had been eating peanuts in this spot for twenty minutes, there would be empty shells. No peanut shells were found on the ground or in the bag.



Find six differences between these panels.

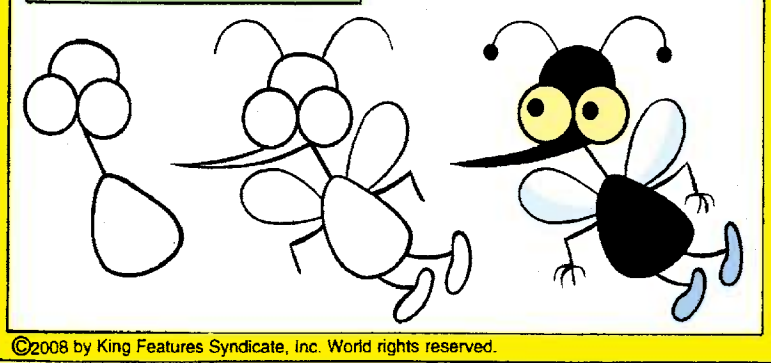
www.kidcartoonists.com



Answer -- Rabbit's teeth, jar, dog tag, freckles, mouse and jam.

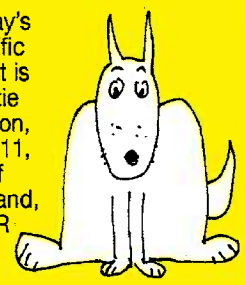
New! The fourth ***Find the six differences*** collection is here. Send $4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to **Six Differences No. 4**, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

HOW TO DRAW a bug



YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Katie Wilson, age 11, of Portland, OR



Submit your drawing at **www.kidcartoonists.com**

The scrambled words are insects. How many can you unscramble?

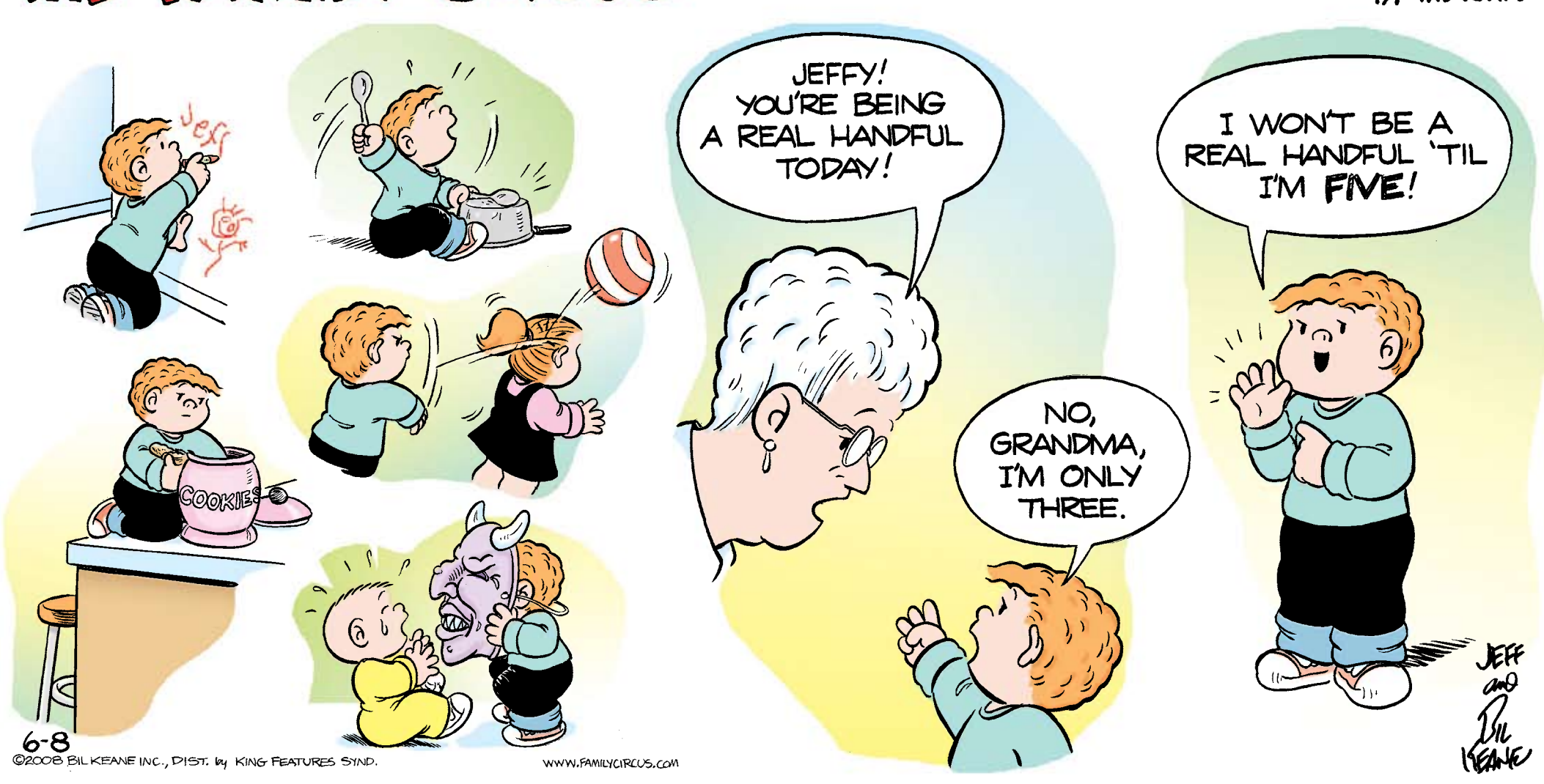
a) ELTEBE
b) CKERTIC
c) TYRLBFTUE
d) UAGLDYB

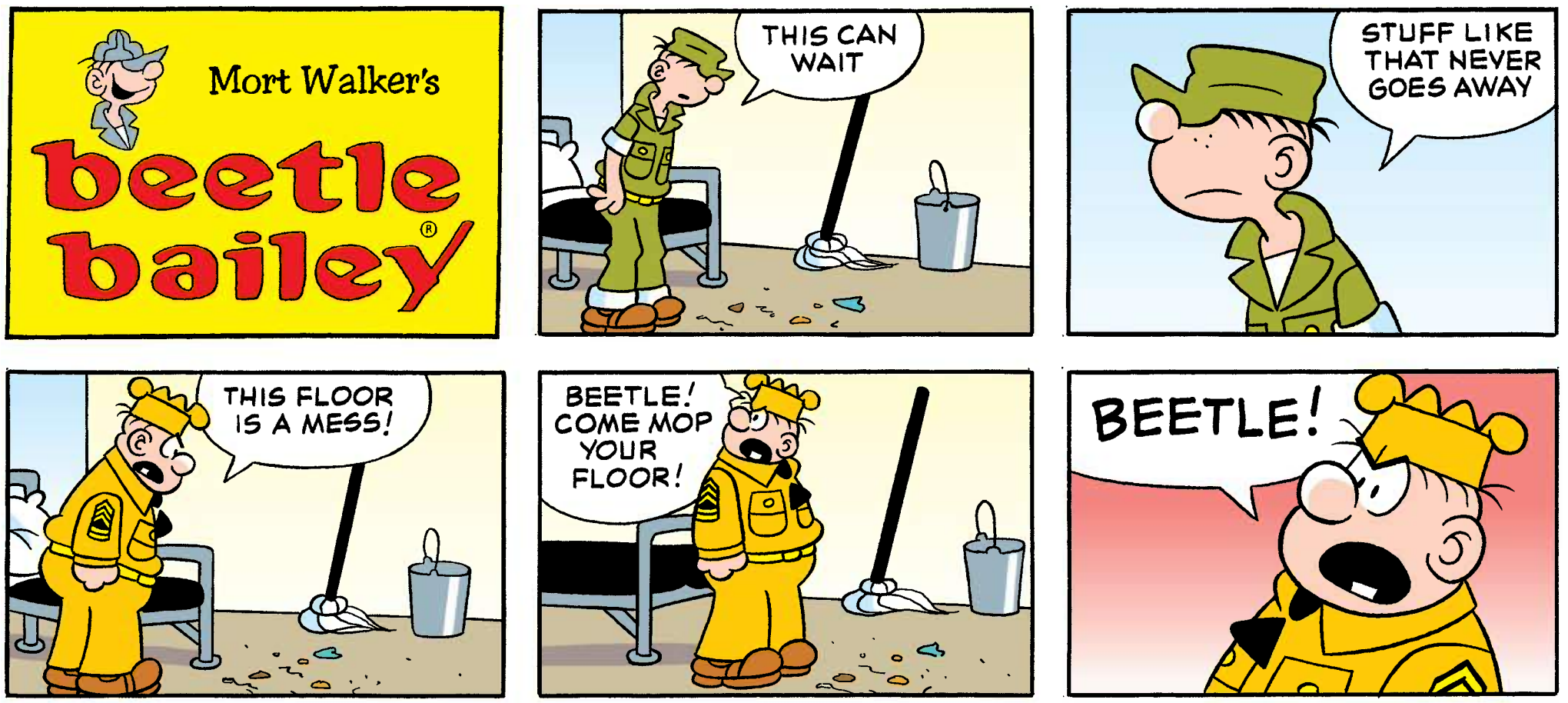
Answer -- 1) Beetle 2) Cricket 3) Butterfly 4) Ladybug

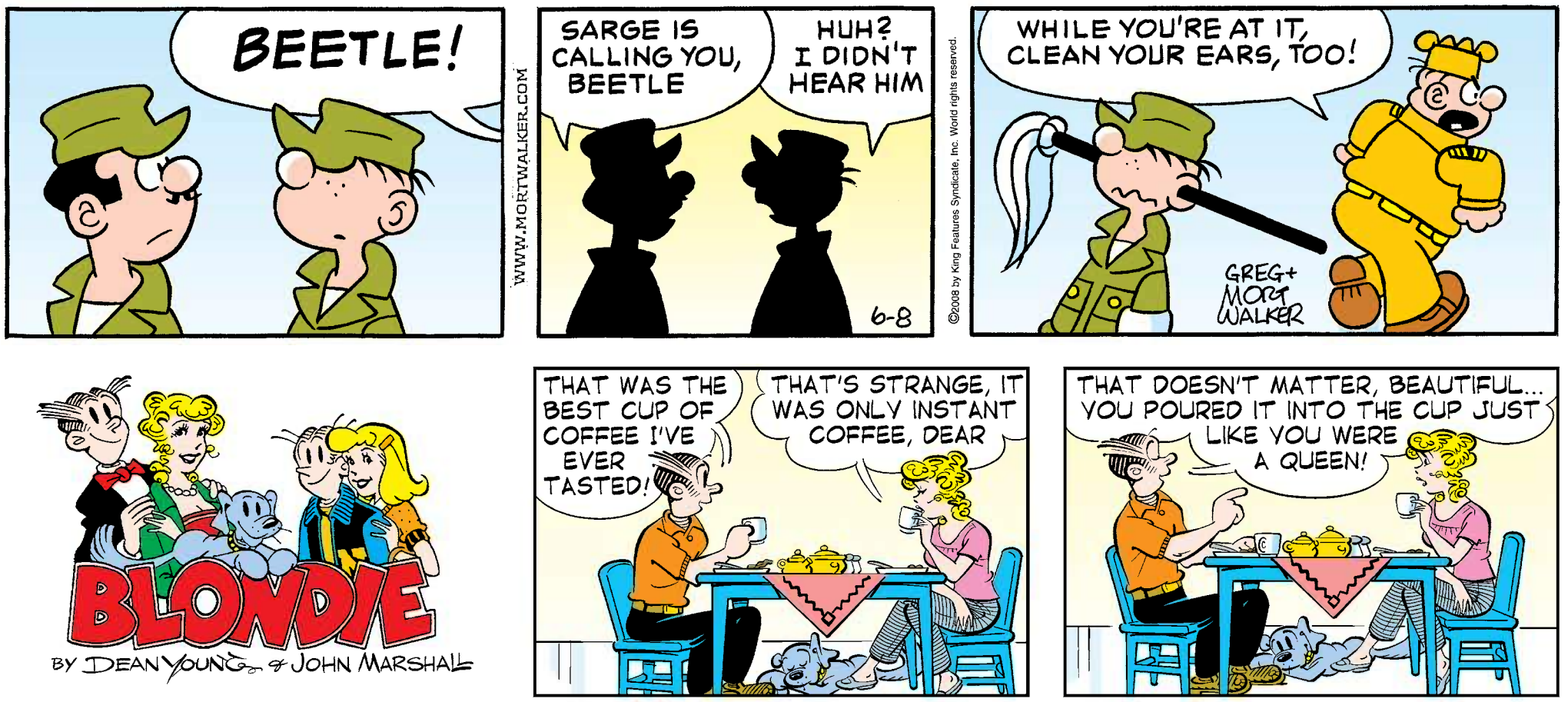
©2008 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

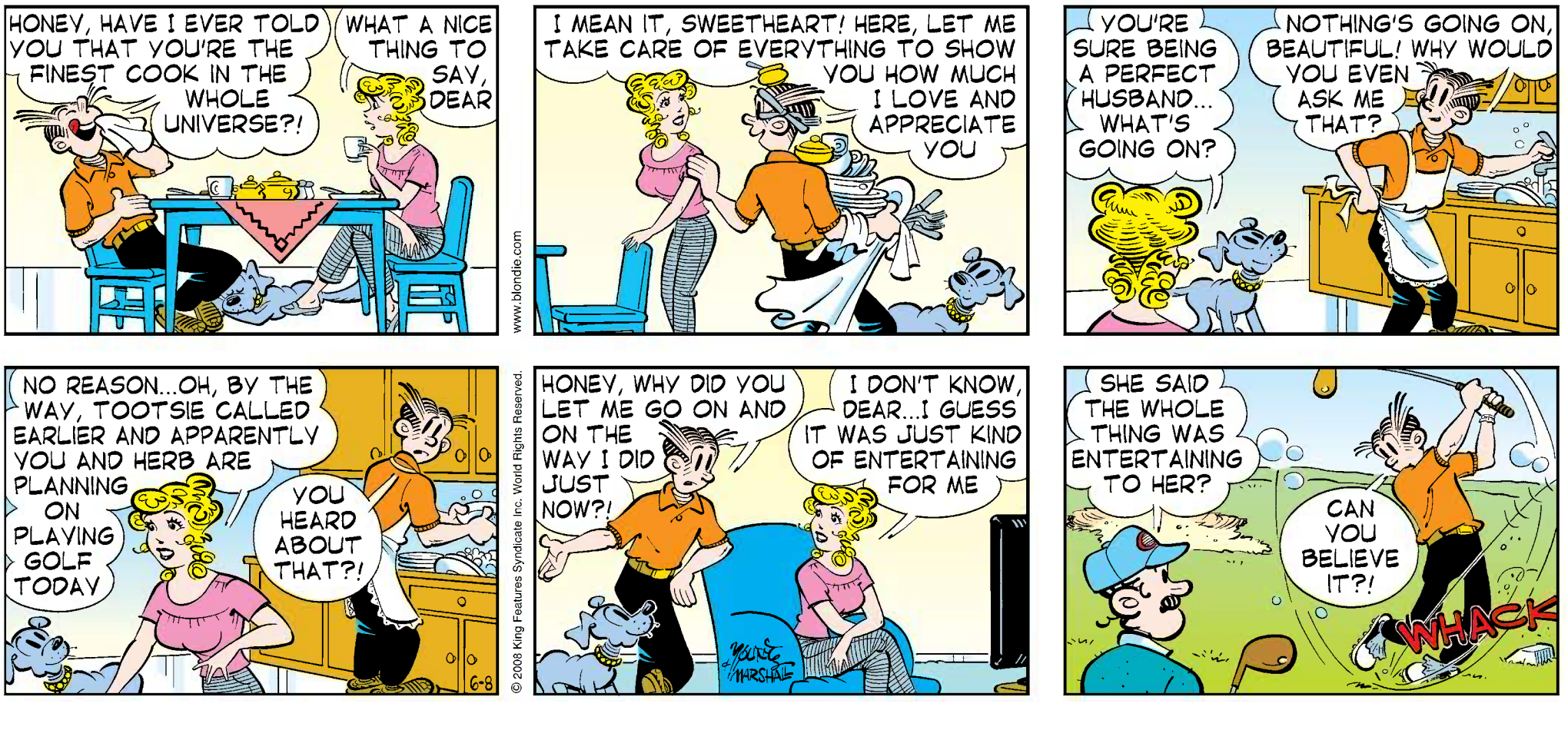
THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

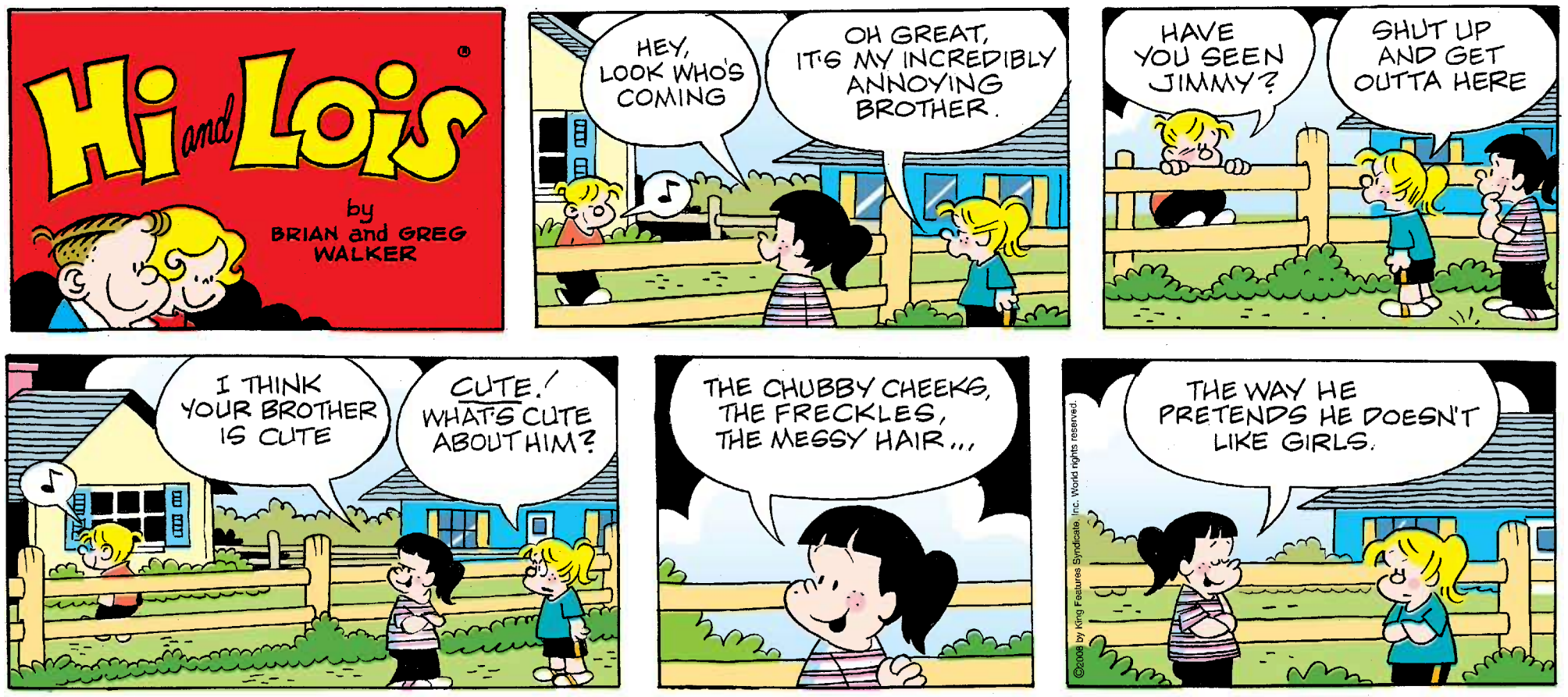
By Bil Keane

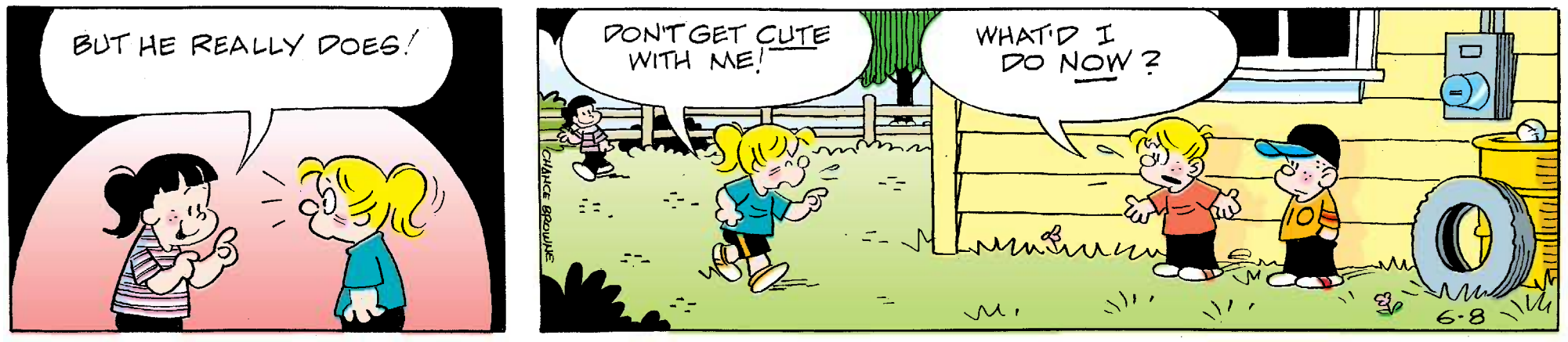

Jeff
COOKIES
JEFFY! YOU'RE BEING A REAL HANDFUL TODAY!
NO, GRANDMA, I'M ONLY THREE.
I WON'T BE A REAL HANDFUL 'TIL I'M FIVE!
JEFF and Bil Keane
6-8
©2008 BIL KEANE INC., DIST. by KING FEATURES SYND.
WWW.FAMILYCIRCUS.COM

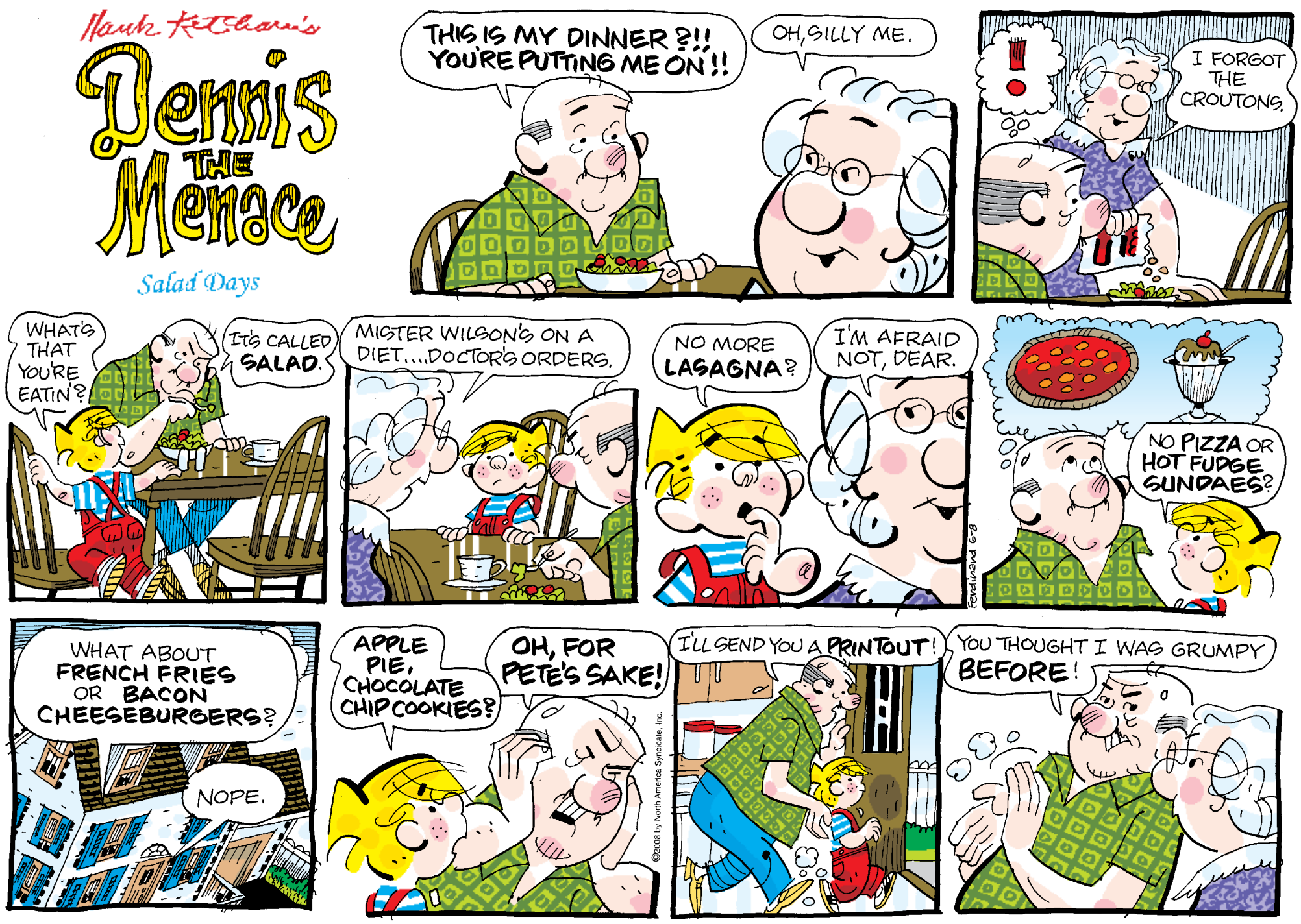

Mort Walker's
beetle bailey®
THIS CAN WAIT
STUFF LIKE THAT NEVER GOES AWAY
THIS FLOOR IS A MESS!
BEETLE! COME MOP YOUR FLOOR!
BEETLE!


BEETLE!
WWW.MORTWALKER.COM
SARGE IS CALLING YOU, BEETLE
HUH? I DIDN'T HEAR HIM
6-8
©2008 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, CLEAN YOUR EARS, TOO!
GREG+ MORT WALKER
BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL
THAT WAS THE BEST CUP OF COFFEE I'VE EVER TASTED!
THAT'S STRANGE, IT WAS ONLY INSTANT COFFEE, DEAR
THAT DOESN'T MATTER, BEAUTIFUL... YOU POURED IT INTO THE CUP JUST LIKE YOU WERE A QUEEN!


HONEY, HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU THAT YOU'RE THE FINEST COOK IN THE WHOLE UNIVERSE?!
WHAT A NICE THING TO SAY, DEAR
I MEAN IT, SWEETHEART! HERE, LET ME TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING TO SHOW YOU HOW MUCH I LOVE AND APPRECIATE YOU
www.blondie.com
YOU'RE SURE BEING A PERFECT HUSBAND... WHAT'S GOING ON?
NOTHING'S GOING ON, BEAUTIFUL! WHY WOULD YOU EVEN ASK ME THAT?
NO REASON...OH, BY THE WAY, TOOTSIE CALLED EARLIER AND APPARENTLY YOU AND HERB ARE PLANNING ON PLAYING GOLF TODAY
YOU HEARD ABOUT THAT?!
6-8
© 2008 King Features Syndicate Inc. World Rights Reserved.
HONEY, WHY DID YOU LET ME GO ON AND ON THE WAY I DID JUST NOW?!
I DON'T KNOW, DEAR...I GUESS IT WAS JUST KIND OF ENTERTAINING FOR ME
SHE SAID THE WHOLE THING WAS ENTERTAINING TO HER?
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?!
WHACK


Hi and Lois
by BRIAN and GREG WALKER
HEY, LOOK WHO'S COMING
OH GREAT, IT'S MY INCREDIBLY ANNOYING BROTHER.
HAVE YOU SEEN JIMMY?
SHUT UP AND GET OUTTA HERE
I THINK YOUR BROTHER IS CUTE
CUTE. WHAT'S CUTE ABOUT HIM?
THE CHUBBY CHEEKS, THE FRECKLES, THE MESSY HAIR...
THE WAY HE PRETENDS HE DOESN'T LIKE GIRLS.
©2008 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.


BUT HE REALLY DOES!
DON'T GET CUTE WITH ME!
WHAT'D I DO NOW?
CHANCE BROWNE
6-8


Hank Ketcham's
Dennis the Menace
Salad Days
THIS IS MY DINNER?!! YOU'RE PUTTING ME ON!!
OH, SILLY ME.
I FORGOT THE CROUTONS.
WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE EATIN'?
It's called SALAD.
MISTER WILSON'S ON A DIET....DOCTOR'S ORDERS.
NO MORE LASAGNA?
I'M AFRAID NOT, DEAR.
NO PIZZA OR HOT FUDGE SUNDAES?
FERD'NAND 6-8
WHAT ABOUT FRENCH FRIES OR BACON CHEESEBURGERS?
NOPE.
APPLE PIE, CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES?
OH, FOR PETE'S SAKE!
I'LL SEND YOU A PRINTOUT!
YOU THOUGHT I WAS GRUMPY BEFORE!
©2008 by North America Syndicate, Inc.

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
FRESH KALE AND BEET TOP SALAD WITH BELARUSIAN TOMATOES...
...PORTABELLO MUSHROOM BURGERS WITH AVOCADO, TURNIP AND MELON CHUTNEY...
...AND A PIPING-HOT EGGPLANT-ARTICHOKE-STRING-BEAN-LEEK CASSEROLE!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT 6-8
DIG IN!
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU GUYS TO DISTRACT YOUR MOTHER TODAY!
WE TRIED! YOU'VE SEEN HER AT THE FARMERS' MARKET!
WE'RE LUCKY WE GOT OUT OF THERE BEFORE SHE SPOTTED THE BOK CHOY!
www.babyblues.com
©2008. BABY BLUES PARTNERSHIP DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYND.

Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) An apparent act of injustice might turn out to be either an error in judgment or just plain stupidity. So calm down and cool off, and let the explanations roll out.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's upsetting when someone you trusted might have failed you. But with new opportunities ahead, you'll soon be too busy to feel even a wee bit sorry for yourself.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A sense of uncertainty could be a good reason to change your position on an important matter. Someone close might try to talk you out of it, but it's your decision to make.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Being too zealous in pursuing your goal could create some resistance. Try to be more mindful of what you ask people to do, and they'll be more likely to do it.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Things change as you go from being ignored to being Lionized once again. This is a good time to reintroduce those previously rejected ideas to a more receptive audience.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Someone new in your life creates both anticipation as well as anxiety. Avoid the potential for misunderstandings by watching what you say and how you say it.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Watch your budget so that you don't overspend now and have less to invest when the time is right later on. Arrange to share your weekend with someone special.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) The temptation to involve yourself in a friend's or family member's personal problems is laudable. But get the facts before you make a firm commitment.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You might be upset by some of your critics. But most of your associates continue to keep the faith in your ability to get the job done, and done well.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You've reached an important point in your ongoing pursuit of your goals. You might now want to consider letting someone you trust join you on your journey.

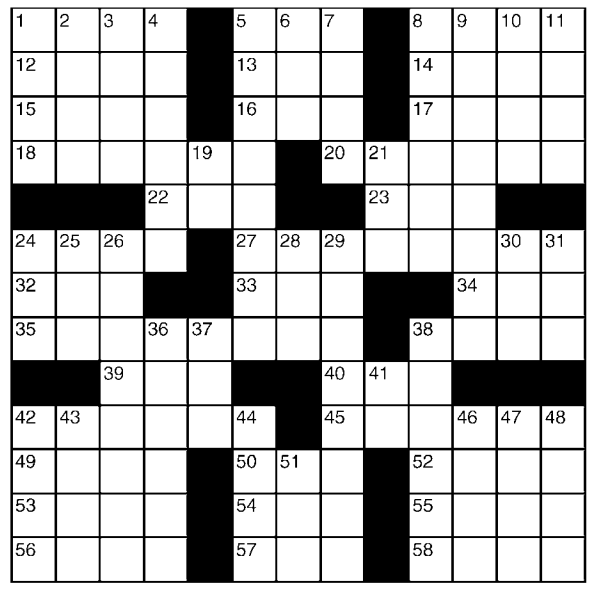
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You've been going through a spate of uncertainty involving people you care for. But it might be time to take a stand on a position you feel sure you can defend.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Treading water keeps you busy, but it won't get you where you need to go. Time to stop making excuses and to start moving ahead toward your goals.

BORN THIS WEEK: You see life as both creative and pragmatic. You would not only be a fine artist, but also a successful one.

© 2008 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Throw a football
5 Evergreen
8 Call a halt to
12 Part of Q.E.D.
13 Onassis, familiarly
14 Corridor
15 Farm fraction
16 Solidify
17 Norway's capital
18 Civil War battle site in Tennessee
20 Guffaw
22 Branch
23 Albanian money
24 Brownish purple
27 Obvious
32 Get - for effort
33 Mauna -
34 Ultra-modernist
35 Picks the wrong actor
38 Mulligan, e.g.
39 Easter entree
40 "Let me think ..."
42 Clear
45 Handled roughly
49 Sandwich treat
50 Actress MacGraw
52 One of the Jackson 5
53 Much of succotash
54 Fellows
55 Squad
56 Dandling locale
57 Sch. org.
58 Christmas

DOWN
1 Carrots' mates
2 St. Louis attraction
3 Wrap dress
4 Inscribed pillar
5 Muslim women's veils
6 Before
7 Accompanying
8 Scary "Psycho" scene
9 Capital of Uzbekistan
10 - podrida
11 Oxen's burden
19 On the other hand
21 Carte lead-in
24 Shriver of tennis
25 Sea urchin, sushi-style
26 Fine wool
28 Household member
29 Shawl type
30 Born
31 AAA job
36 "Scarface"
37 Parisian pal
38 Obscene
41 Kettle or Bell
42 Tress
43 Unyielding
44 Moist
46 Stead
47 Handy pc. of Latin
48 Capitol cap
51 Allow

© 2008 King Features Synd., Inc.

top ten

TV QUIZ SHOWS OF ALL-TIME

1. *The Price Is Right*
2. *Jeopardy*
3. *Wheel of Fortune*
4. *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*
5. *The Hollywood Squares*
6. *What's My Line*
7. *To Tell the Truth*
8. *The Newlywed Game*
9. *The Dating Game*
10. *Let's Make a Deal*

Source: www.unclebarky.com

© 2008 by King Features Syndicate, Inc.
World rights reserved.

KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

I	F	S		P	A	P	A	S		R	I	G
T	E	A		A	B	O	V	E		E	V	A
S	E	C	E	S	S	I	O	N		M	A	N
			R	S	T		W	I	R	I	N	G
S	H	A	N	I	A		S	O	U	S		
P	O	D		M	I	L		R	I	S	K	S
A	C	M	E		N	U	N		N	I	N	O
S	K	I	N	S		G	O	B		O	E	R
		S	O	M	A		B	O	N	N	E	T
P	O	S	S	E	S		L	O	U			
O	B	I		A	C	C	E	S	S	I	O	N
M	O	O		R	O	U	S	T		S	H	E
P	E	N		S	T	E	T	S		P	O	W

United States

Bush weighs new stimulus measures

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush is considering new measures to help stimulate the battered economy, the White House said Friday as unemployment and oil prices soared and Wall Street sank. White House counselor Ed Gillespie said Bush's advisers are constantly looking at options for new economic proposals.

"There's a short window for the president here when it comes to new policy. We understand that," Gillespie said. "So I guess what I'm saying is, don't rule it out."

Gillespie spoke before a Bush speech on the economy, timed around the ceremonial swearing-in of the president's new housing secretary, Steven Preston. In his remarks, Bush stuck to promoting his existing economic policies.

The government's $168 billion stimulus package, passed in February, began getting tax rebate checks to people last month and helped to energize shoppers. "We're beginning to see signs that the stimulus may be working," Bush said at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

But analysts believe consumers still are anxious, and a weakening job market could make people feel less inclined to spend. This, and talk that the economy already has fallen into its first recession since 2001, has led to questions about whether a second stimulus might be warranted.

The first one provided rebate checks for individuals and extra tax breaks for businesses. The White House has insisted it needed to wait to see the full effects of the existing stimulus before discussing any new steps.

The president did not unveil any new proposals during his speech, nor even hint whether he believes any are necessary.

Instead, he called on the Democratic-controlled Congress to pass long-sought existing priorities of his, such as making tax cuts passed during his presidency permanent and allowing expanded oil exploration in the United States.

"Unfortunately, these policies are being blocked by the Democratic Congress," he said. "I call on the congressional leaders to put partisanship aside and work with me to enact these important issues for the American people."

Storms bring new round of destruction

EMMAVILLE, Minn. (AP)—Strong storms smashed houses, deluged neighborhoods and left thousands without power across the Midwest on Friday in the latest round of fierce weather. Hot temperatures baked the region even as residents coped with the lack of electricity.

A tornado raked a half-mile-wide path of destruction in northwestern Minnesota, where a house overlooking Pickerel Lake near Emmaville was destroyed, it's contents spilling down the hill. Wooden chairs and tables floated below.

Flooding forced the evacuation of about a dozen homes in the central Iowa town of Cambridge.

Heavy rains that began Thursday night seeped into most basements and at least one foundation collapsed, said Lori Morrissey, Story County's emergency management coordinator.

ACROSS THE NATION

Senior NYC crane inspector accused of corruption

NEW YORK (AP)—A senior city buildings official signed off on crane inspections he didn't perform and helped crane operators cheat on licensing exams in exchange for thousands of dollars in bribes, but his actions do not appear to be connected to two recent fatal crane collapses, authorities said Friday. James Delayo, acting chief inspector with the Department of Buildings' cranes and derricks division, was released without bail after he was arraigned Friday. He is charged with bribe receiving, tampering with public records, falsifying business records, filing a false instrument and receiving unlawful gratuities. He entered no plea and his lawyer, Lawrence Linzer, declined to comment.

Calif. clerk stopping marriages to resist ruling

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—As same-sex couples prepare to wed in California later this month, one county clerk in the conservative Central Valley plans to sidestep the state's legalization of gay marriage by not performing any ceremonies. Ann Barnett plans to stop performing ceremonies for all couples in Kern County as of June 14. She will issue the new gender-neutral marriage licenses as required by law on June 17, but refuses to preside over any ceremony because of space and staff constraints, she said in a statement. Barnett's announcement came after she received advice from county lawyers that she could not refuse to marry only couples of her choosing.

Prosecutor: British man fatally shot wife, kid

WOBURN, Mass. (AP)—A British man despondent over his sex life and his mounting debt shot his wife and baby daughter to death as they lay in bed together, covered them with a comforter, then bought a one-way ticket home to England, a prosecutor told a jury Friday. Neil Entwistle, 29, is charged in the fatal shootings of his 27-year-old wife, Rachel, and their 9-month-old daughter, Lillian Rose, in January 2006. His defense attorney said Entwistle was a loving husband and father who was so crazed with grief after discovering their bodies in their Hopkinton home that he flew to England to be consoled by his parents.

McCain deploying staff, expanding advertising

WASHINGTON (AP)—With his Democratic foe now certain, Republican John McCain is deploying dozens of staffers into battleground states, boasting of improved fundraising and expanding his advertising into some of the most competitive terrain of the general election. "I'm running for president to keep the country I love safe," the Arizona senator says in a new commercial unveiled Friday. The ad was the start of what the campaign said would be a sustained effort to spread McCain's message in Electoral College targets between now and the fall. The Republican made his opening argument for the next phase of the presidential campaign in a speech Tuesday in which he tried to distance himself from the unpopular President Bush while arguing the Obama offers change that would imperil the country.

Clinton, Obama talk without aides

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton sat in comfortable chairs, sipped water and spoke for an hour about the presidential campaign to come. Just the two of them, without aides. And they parted laughing.

Aside from a fleeting backstage encounter in between their respective speeches to a pro-Israel group Wednesday, this was the first face-to-face meeting between Obama and Clinton since he clinched the Democratic presidential nomination and she moved to end her bid and endorse his candidacy.

Neither Obama or Clinton have disclosed details of this meeting Thursday night at the home of a Senate colleague, Democrat Dianne Feinstein.

AP

In this July 19, 2006, file photo Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., speaks with Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., right, during the annual convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Washington.

But Feinstein told reporters Friday that Clinton called her Thursday afternoon and asked if she and Obama could meet at the California senator's home. The two former rivals arrived and left separately, Feinstein said, and had no staff in the room with them as they talked. Feinstein showed them into her living room at 9 p.m. EDT, then left them alone and went upstairs to do her own work.

"There was a desire on both sides, I think, to have a private meeting," Feinstein said Friday.

"They called me when it was over," Feinstein said. "I came down and said, `Good night everybody, I hope you had a good meeting.' They were laughing, and that was it."

Europe Highlights
Tour 2008
France, Luxembourg, Germany,
Switzerland, Austria and Italy.
June 14-29, 2008
$3,485.00
Twin sharing/per person
Includes
• Economy class Manila-Europe-Manila
• Breakfast and Dinner throughout
• All hotel accommodation at 3-4 star hotels
• All tours mensioned with English speaking guides
• Transfer from Airport to hotel and vice versa
• Private long distance coach throughout Europe
Some restrictions apply.
For more information please call your travel agents,
Lisa and Jie at (670) 235-3708 to 10 or e-mail us at
customerservice@centurytravelagency.com
www.centurytravelagency.com
Century Travel
AGENCY, INC.
A TanHoldings Company
Going the Extra Mile to Serve You!
Ground Floor CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan,
PMB 193 Box 10000 PPP, Saipan MP 96950

Asia

Draining starts in quake lake

TAOHUA MOUNTAIN, China (AP)—Water began draining from an earthquake-formed lake Saturday, easing the immediate threat of flooding in China's disaster zone, officials said.

Worries about the collapse of Tangjiashan lake has driven authorities to evacuate more than 250,000 people and mount a hurried effort to build a diversion channel to carry the water over the landslide that blocked the Tongkou River.

Workers deepened the channel Friday, and after steady rains, water flowed into the spillway Saturday morning, state media reported.

By 8 a.m., water that had been building behind the landslide for nearly four weeks appeared to stabilize, the State Council, China's Cabinet, said in a report posted on its Web Site.

"Emergency work is still proceeding urgently, but in the foreseeable future there's no risk of the dam collapsing," the Xinhua News Agency quoted Chengdu Military Region Deputy Commander Fan Xiaoguang as saying.

Engineers were monitoring bridges and river banks downstream to see if they would hold under the rush of water, and work crews were trying to dig a secondary channel to improve the flow, China Central Television and the Xinhua News Agency reported.

MANILA VISIT AP

Ousted Philippine President Joseph Estrada, left, gestures as he welcomes Malaysian opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, second from left, and his wife Wan Aziza, right, as former President Corazon Aquino, second from right, looks on prior to their dinner-meeting Friday June 6, 2008 at Estrada's house at suburban San Juan, east of Manila. Anwar is in the country to address a forum on "Islam, Politics and the Prospects for Peace."

5 Euro divers in Indonesia found

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) -- A local police chief says that five European scuba divers have been found alive after being swept away by powerful currents off eastern Indonesia.

Police say three British divers and one each from France and Sweden plunged from their wooden boat Thursday for what was supposed to be an hour-long dive near Komodo island.

Chief of local police Lt. Col. Buce Helo says the divers were found Saturday morning on the southern coast of nearby Rinca island.

A sea search was launched after the five were reported missing by other foreigners who were waiting to dive, the police chief said.

Police and soldiers plied the waters on port authority boats and small vessels borrowed from area residents.

"There is no way of knowing for sure what happened," said Jacob, another police officer, who like many Indonesians goes by only one name. "But the currents there can be very, very strong."

Dozens hurt in S. Korea beef protest

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Dozens were injured in the largest protest yet over an agreement to resume U.S. beef imports to South Korea, according to authorities and media reports Saturday.

A crowd estimated by police at 65,000 demonstrated in central Seoul on Friday night. Some marched on a road leading to the presidential Blue House but were blocked by a barricade of police buses.

Riot police later clashed with demonstrators who tried to march to the presidential office through a back alley.

About 25 riot police were hospitalized and protesters smashed the windows of four of the buses, said an officer at the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency. The officer declined to give his name, citing office policy.

The injuries were not critical, he said.

Four indicted on charges of smuggling 6 Filipinos to US

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A nursing home owner in California has been indicted on federal human trafficking charges that include allegations she and three others conspired to bring six Filipinos to the United States and forced them to work long hours at two of her facilities.

Evelyn Pelayo, 51, of Long Beach was accused of recruiting workers in the Philippines with the promise of employment upon arrival, the U.S. Attorney's office said Friday.

Once they agreed, Pelayo contacted two Philippine nationals, both of them martial arts instructor, to arrange for the victims to enter the United States by falsely claiming they were participating in Taekwondo tournaments, prosecutors said.

World

2 Shiite extremists surrender

BAGHDAD (AP)—Two Shiite militia leaders surrendered to American soldiers Friday, while tens of thousands of supporters of hard-line Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr streamed out of mosques to protest against an agreement which could keep U.S. troops here for years.

The arrests and demonstrations occurred on the eve of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's trip to Shiite-dominated Iran, his second visit there in a year.

U.S. officials allege that Iran is arming and training Shiite militiamen and encouraging a public campaign in Iraq against the proposed U.S.-Iraq security agreement, which the Iranians oppose.

One of those who surrendered early Friday allegedly ordered attacks on U.S. troops, directed the kidnapping of Iraqis and helped smuggle Iranian weapons into Iraq, the U.S. military said in a statement.

The other tried to escape by wading through an irrigation canal before turning himself over to U.S. soldiers.

Names of the suspects were not released, but both were members of Iranian-backed "special groups," the U.S. command said. The term is used by the American military to describe Shiite fighters who have defied al-Sadr's cease-fire order that ended seven weeks of fighting in Baghdad last month.

Women bombers show shift in insurgent tactics in Iraq

IRBIL, Iraq (AP)—A girl strapped with explosives approaches an Iraqi army captain, who dies in the suicide blast. A woman posing as a mother-to-be to disguise a bulging bomb belt strikes a wedding procession as part of a coordinated attack that kills nearly three dozen people.

The attacks last month were among the latest blows by female suicide bombers - and further evidence of shifting insurgent tactics amid an overall drop in bloodshed around Iraq.

U.S. military figures show the number of female suicide attacks has risen from eight in 2007 to at least 16 so far this year - not including a suicide bombing Friday near Ramadi that Iraqi police believe was carried out by a woman. That compares with a total of four in 2005 and 2006, according to the military.

Some female bombers appear motivated by revenge, like the woman who killed 15 people in Diyala province on Dec. 7. She was a former member of Saddam Hussein's Baath party whose two sons joined al-Qaida in Iraq and were killed by Iraqi security forces.

But activists and U.S. commanders also believe al-Qaida in Iraq is increasingly seeking to exploit women who are unable to deal with the grief of losing husbands, children and others to the violence.

Cuba OKs free sex-change operations

HAVANA (AP)—Cuba has authorized sex-change operations and will offer them free for qualifying citizens, an official said Friday. The move is the latest in a series of changes implemented by President Raul Castro since he succeeded his elder brother, Fidel, in February. Raul Castro's daughter, Mariela, heads Cuba's National Center for Sex Education, which strongly backs the new policy.

Health Minister Jose Ramon Balaguer signed a resolution approving sex-change surgery, said an official at the center who spoke on condition of anonymity because the measure has not been formally published. The resolution will be posted on the Internet on Saturday, the official said.

The procedure would be available to Cubans for free as part of their country's healthcare system.

The sex education center has said previously that 28 transsexual Cubans have asked to undergo the surgery and that Cuban doctors have trained with physicians from Belgium to prepare for the procedures.

According to the center, a clinic for transsexual health will be created to perform the procedures, but it was not clear when it will start operating.

Cuba carried out a successful sex-change operation in 1988, but future surgeries were canceled because it sparked a negative public outcry.

WORLD BRIEFS

All Zimbabwe opposition rallies banned

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Just three weeks before Zimbabwe's presidential runoff, Robert Mugabe is giving the opposition little room to campaign - detaining its candidate, banning rallies and attacking diplomats who try to investigate political violence. Even food is being used as a weapon, American and British officials said, with a ban on aid agencies ensuring that the poorest Zimbabweans must turn to Mugabe for help even if they blame him for the collapse of the economy. The government denied the allegations. Opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai out-polled Mugabe and two other candidates in the first round of voting March 29, but did not get the simple majority necessary to avoid a runoff. In recent days, it has become increasingly clear that Mugabe does not plan to let Tsvangirai come close to toppling him in the June 27 runoff.

Leaders of ex-Soviet alliance meet

STRELNA, Russia (AP)—Russia's new president met Friday with leaders of a fractious alliance of ex-Soviet republics, warning Ukraine and Georgia not to lead their countries into NATO, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said. President Dmitry Medvedev told the leaders of the two nations that joining the Western alliance would hurt their relations with Russia and seriously increase tension on the edges of the former Soviet Union, according to Lavrov. Medvedev delivered his message during one-on-one talks with several presidents from the 12-nation Commonwealth of Independent States at the lavish Konstantin Palace in Strelna, on the Gulf of Finland near St. Petersburg, before what was billed as an informal summit meeting later in the day.

Ancient Greek grave found during subway work

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greek authorities say subway construction work in the northern city of Thessaloniki has unearthed an ancient grave with a wealth of golden jewelry. The 2,300-year old grave contained a female skeleton, accompanied by four gold wreaths and gold earrings in the shape of dogs' heads set with semiprecious stones. A Culture Ministry statement said Friday that the grave goods included a bronze mirror, a bronze vase and six clay pots. The woman had been buried in a wooden coffin, traces of which survived. The ministry said part of the grave had been destroyed by a modern sewage pipe.

Focus

The era of big Clintons is soon over

By CALVIN WOODWARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AP

Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., and her husband Bill Clinton take the stage a rally in New York, Tuesday, June 3, 2008.

WASHINGTON (AP)—There's been a Clinton running for the White House or living in it for approximately forever. Bill, it could be said, was born to run. Running became Hillary's destiny, too.

One quarter of Americans have never known life without a Clinton trying for or having the presidency. Millions have gone from diapers to diplomas in the time of the Clintons.

When Hillary Rodham Clinton finally exits the 2008 Democratic presidential race, she will end a decades-long, power-couple streak of unique political energy, savvy ideas, colossal policy flops and raw ambition dressed in pants suits and briefs, not boxers.

"Every day is an adventure," Bill said cheerfully at the start of it all. And how.

By now, the Clintons have been assigned mystical qualities of perseverance. The notion that the adventure is over is almost beyond comprehension.

"I never quit," she says. "I never give up."

Even in defeat, Hillary Clinton has made history as the first woman favored for a major party presidential nomination—the first with a real shot at the presidency.

She's gotten more than 17 million votes in her own right this year, enticingly close to the number won by Barack Obama, who is making history, too, because he's black.

With her cachet, not to mention her job in the Senate, Clinton won't drift far from the nation's consciousness. (Nor is Bill likely to get out of the country's face.)

"Whatever else you might say about them, they have contributed to substantive dialogue and policy," says Mary Matalin, a Clinton-era Republican strategist. "Hats off to them substantively.

"They're really kind of giants in this world."

In the 2012 and 2016 presidential campaign years, Hillary Clinton, now 60, will still be younger than the Republican candidate, John McCain, is now. Meantime, she could become a powerhouse senator in the manner of the stricken Edward M. Kennedy. Or a Supreme Court justice. Or Obama's running mate.

Soon, though, there will be no Clinton running for president or about to. Imagine that.

■ ■ ■

Clinton I:

Dial back to Bill Clinton's two terms and a few big achievements and various smaller ones stand out: unsurpassed economic growth, a balanced budget, welfare reform, free trade, a Middle East peace agreement, gun control, more money for police on the street, the first Cabinet without white men in the majority.

Here was a man who could wear people out talking about the fine points of policy while owning up to his choice of underwear.

Another legacy was the transcendent His and Hers failure: universal health care. The complex, secretively drawn plan to achieve that goal was sent to and killed by a Democratic Congress, no less.

And there were the scandals, His and Hers.

They are known, in brief, as: Monica Lewinsky, Paula Jones, Gennifer Flowers, Whitewater, the White House travel office firings, White House coffees and Lincoln bedroom stays for donors, FBI background files on Republicans, missing documents and the presidential pardon of a fugitive friend.

> "Whatever else you might say about them, they have contributed to substantive dialogue and policy. Hats off to them substantively. They're really kind of giants in this world."

The episodes involving women were his. Most of the others were theirs or hers.

■ ■ ■

Scene from a 'funeral':

In January 2001, shortly before George W. Bush was sworn in, some of the Clintons' fiercest critics from the right gathered in a Washington hotel to feast on filet mignon, salmon and sour grapes.

"It's our way of celebrating the fumigation of Washington," said L. Brent Bozell III, host of the "funeral" for the Clinton years.

"I've never seen a back I've found more attractive," said Robert Bork, the scuttled Supreme Court nominee, meaning Bill Clinton's back when he left town.

Bozell amended the Lord's Prayer to say of Mrs. Clinton: "Her socialist agenda got runneth over." And the Rev. Jerry Falwell gave the invocation, thanking God "a new wind is blowing."

They seemed to be forgetting someone.

Hillary Clinton came blowing into the Senate chamber, the newly minted junior senator from New York.

■ ■ ■

Clinton II:

She was diligent from the start, attentive to constituent needs and a hard worker on the Armed Services Committee. She promised to be "pretty New York-centric," and was.

But everything she did was colored by the expectation of a presidential run.

The most polarizing woman in politics turned into a workhorse and formed surprising alliances with Republicans.

She edged toward the center and attempted to accomplish in little pieces what she could not pull off as a whole in her years as first lady.

Clinton joined Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, an architect of her husband's impeachment, in a law improving health coverage for members of the National Reserve and Guard serving in Iraq.

She pushed for tighter regulation of prescription drugs for children and help for recovery workers whose health was impaired by laboring at the site of the 2001 World Trade Center terrorist attack.

And she voted to authorize the Iraq invasion, which she would never live down after she cruised to re-election in 2006.

No monumental law bears her name.

But in the campaign, universal health care returned to her agenda. This time, she said, she would learn from her experience and do it right—more openly and less intrusively on parts of the health care system that work.

Clinton was the one to beat out of the gate. Everyone knew her, for one thing.

"Ninety-nine percent of the country feels they have a relationship with her," said Mike McCurry, former press secretary to President Clinton.

And there was Bill, still in everyone's face. He stumped for his wife as if possessed. Hillary Clinton flashed him that bright smile on stage through thick and thin.

For some voters, that was one Clinton—or two—too many.

"We've had enough of the Clintons," said Haydon Grubbs, 77, of Shalimar, Fla. "New direction, right?"

Grubbs, a Republican who voted in the past for the "He Clinton," backed Obama this time.

The "She Clinton" found her own voice.

But, like her husband, she seemed the strongest when her back was against the wall.

As the odds of beating Obama sank into the nearly impossible, she campaigned as if there were some previously undiscovered "third way" to win, just as Bill Clinton had sought a third way to govern between the old politics of left and right.

On Friday, she cited the 1968 Democratic primaries as a reason why she should stay in the race. She mentioned the assassination of Robert Kennedy in June of that year, then apologized for bringing it up.

■ ■ ■

Together, Bill and Hillary Clinton have pulled it out of the fire over and over, going back to 1976, when he bounced back from losing a congressional race two years earlier. He won election as Arkansas attorney general.

Two years after that, at 32, he became the nation's youngest governor.

Then, defeat in 1980 when he sought a second term. It would be his final election loss, but hardly the last dip in the Clintons' seemingly endless cycle of failure and renewal.

By the mid-1980s, when he was back in office in Little Rock, Clinton's name was floating as a Democratic presidential prospect.

He took a pass in 1988. But that year marked one benchmark in the rollout of the Clinton era.

He delivered a speech at the Democratic convention laying out a new orthodoxy that he would bring to the presidential race himself four years later, his activist wife at his side.

The Clintons' national conversation had begun.

The speech went on for so long that some people wondered if it would ever end.

In a way, it never did. Not until now.

Life & Style

Can a platonic relationship turn passionate?

And if it could, would you want it to?

By JULIA FELDMEIER
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—My best guy friend is sitting across from me as I type this, playing footsie with me under the table. We've been friends for 10 years, since college. We can talk for hours about things big and small; we can also sit comfortably in silence. He makes me laugh, always, but has sincere words when I need a lift.

It's the perfect relationship. Except, of course, for when I go home, try to mentally decode the meaning of footsie and then turn to my roommate or my sister or anyone who'll listen and say, "UGH! WE'RE SO PERFECT TOGETHER, WHY AREN'T WE DATING?!" And other sane things like that.

Pop culture abounds with examples of friends who've navigated (or attempted to navigate) the path to romance. Think "Friends," in which Monica and Chandler get together. And "Little Women," when Laurie longs for childhood pal Jo March. And "When Harry Met Sally ...," which explores the muddy waters of sexual tension to determine if, in fact, men and women can be friends.

Platonic friendships: It's sexual attraction without acting on it. And the primary reason many of us don't act is fear: the worry that if our friend rebuffs us or the move from platonic to romantic fails, the friendship is irrecoverable.

Can men and women be friends? I mean, can they really be *just* friends? OK, yeah. And yet:

"All friendships, even same-sex ones, have ambiguous and changing boundaries," says clinical psychologist Linda Sapadin, author of "Now I Get It! Totally Sensational Advice for Living and Loving" (Outskirts Press, 2006). "You may think somebody's a best friend, and they just consider you a casual friend. How it's perceived is not always the same."

In other words: Your perspective can shift. Suddenly you see a friend as desirable, but he or she still sees you as only a friend. Which leaves you with two choices, Sapadin says: You can try to change it to a romantic relationship. Or you can learn to live with it so that there's flirtatious banter—footsie, anyone?—but nothing else.

It's sexual attraction without acting on it. And the primary reason many of us don't act is fear: the worry that if our friend rebuffs us or the move from platonic to romantic fails, the friendship is irrecoverable.

Such was the outcome for Amy Ewen, who was close friends with her co-worker Peter until they enjoyed a whirlwind romance just before Peter left to spend a year traveling in Asia.

"I was so happy, but it was really bittersweet because he was leaving," Ewen says. She wasn't expecting them to stay together long distance, she says, but they split with the assumption that there would be *something* on the other side: a continuation of their friendship.

Ewen left her job to travel, too. When she returned from New Zealand, where she'd met someone else, Peter was back, and she wanted to reconnect as a friend. He never returned her phone calls.

When she finally ran into him one evening, he was standoffish. He shook her hand as though they were business acquaintances and then blurted out that he wasn't in love with her.

"I was remembering how things were when we were good friends," Ewen says. "He thought I was thinking about being his girlfriend. It's sort of a shame, because we got along so well."

It is a shame—but there's a comfort to friendship that often gets destroyed when romantic feelings are raised, an awkwardness that accompanies the transition into, and out of, these feelings.

"It feels very uncomfortable when somebody likes you more than you like them," says Ellen Sue Stern, a relationship expert who has written advice books. Making the transition is "always a risk," she says. "You should be really sure you want to take that risk before you make that move."

Too, you know a friend well—the opposite of romances in fairy tales. This prince, he's not a stranger. As for Cinderella? Forget the glass slipper. You've watched her clip her toenails.

Kathy Werking interviewed dozens of opposite-sex friends when researching her book "We're Just Good Friends: Women and Men in Nonromantic Relationships" (Guilford Press, 1997). Many reported that, when looking for a romantic partner, they sought someone with an air of mystery.

"There's a lot of fantasy involved when we meet someone," Werking says. "We create a fantasy about what our lives will be together and what this person is all about. It's not as exciting to be around a person who knows you thoroughly."

When you're single and meet someone new, you size them up to determine whether they're datable.

"At a certain point in life, you already have your friends," says Greg Behrendt, author of "He's Just Not That Into You: The No-Excuses Truth to Understanding Guys" (Simon Spotlight Entertainment, 2004). "So you're not looking for friends. You're generally looking for something more serious."

Call it a superficial calculation, but it's nonetheless deliberate. Friend romance, by contrast, seems almost Freudian.

Take Lynne and Kwame DeRoche of suburban Herndon, Va., now married seven years. When they met, they say, they never considered each other as anything but a buddy. Then came the slip. They were talking on the phone, planning to meet up that evening, when Lynne concluded the call by saying, "OK, love ya. Bye."

Kwame didn't skip a beat. "Love you, too. Bye."

Neither acted on those words until a happy hour three months later when, fueled by booze and perhaps pent-up emotion, Lynne kissed him. That act wasn't so much a matter of crossing the boundary between friendship and romance as erasing it.

"Everything that had happened before that was us dating," Kwame says. "We'd basically been dating for six months and didn't know it."

The right timing often is paired with the maturity to understand the difference between what makes friends compatible and what makes romantic partners compatible. Do you both want kids? Where do you both want to live?

These kinds of talks, so pragmatic and seemingly unromantic, are imperative to saving a relationship.

While society continues to depict male-female relationships as anything other than platonic, bonds, such as the one between Graves and Thiam, show that friendships between the sexes are possible. Having friends of the opposite gender gives you a different point of view, which may lead to better communication and understanding in romantic relationships.

"The friend definition is very different from how we define our romantic relationships," Werking says. "We have different expectations. Flaws that are OK in a friendship may not be OK in a romantic relationship."

But if the flaws are benign and the spark is there, well, that's a great place to be. After all, Stern says, "the healthiest relationships are those that are maximum safety and maximum passion."

Which brings me back to my footsie friend. Passion—much as I like to think it's hidden in his subconscious—is missing.

There was a short period after a drunken confession of my feelings when it seemed as though he was thinking about it. He was flirtier, looking at me differently. I looked at him differently, too—in a way that made me freak out. Was this seriously someone I could see myself being intimate with?

And then things snapped back to normal, back to being really good friends, with me thinking, still, that we'd make the perfect couple. Perhaps that's just our unalterable dynamic.

Anyway, he's dating now, so as his friend, I'm OK with that. Besides, I've got someone new to like. He's a great guy—and I know that because, alas, we're friends.

Analyze this: Friends or more?

By JULIA FELDMEIER
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

You're great friends. You get along terrifically. What if ...? Maybe we could be ...? I mean, it kind of makes sense: She calls me all the time. He always greets me with a hug. That's got to mean something, right?

Trying to determine someone's interest in us is exhausting, and, experts say, we often mislead ourselves. "Human beings have an amazing capacity for denial," says Ellen Sue Stern, a relationship expert and author. "We convince ourselves that there's something there, even when deep down we know there isn't."

So, next time you find yourself analyzing a friendship—and the potential of something more—ask yourself these questions:

■ Do you find yourself constantly searching for cues of romantic interest?

If so, you've probably rounded the corner from a healthy friendship into something less healthy.

"It's certainly not your optimal relationship," Stern says. When you're eyeballing a friendship in terms of romance, "it's more about what isn't there," she says.

For instance, physical interaction: You throw your arms around each other, hug goodbye, give a squeeze on the neck and so forth. And yet, Stern says, "if there isn't that sort of lingering moment when you part ways where you feel, 'Oh, right now somebody could make a move,' then it probably isn't there."

Another clue: The person who wants more will make more eye contact.

■ Who's making the effort in the friendship?

You have a great time when you hang out, that much you're sure of. But if you're the main instigator of getting together, that may be a sign that your feelings aren't reciprocated.

"There's certain nuances people want to ignore," Stern says. "Like how much one person initiates the relationship versus the other." After all, you like the person, so you're thinking about them—a lot. And if they're just thinking of you as a friend, they're happy to spend time with you, but it's probably not as top-of-mind.

■ Are you interested in your friend—or the challenge?

Ah, the old want-what-you-can't-have syndrome. "There are people that fall in love with not getting what they want and choosing things that don't work as opposed to the simplicity of finding something better," says Greg Behrendt, author of "He's Just Not That Into You." "You're falling in love with a cause. We have an obsession in America with winning someone over or changing them. But human beings are unmovable."

In this way, hoping for romance with a friend is safe: You know you love spending time with the person, and liking your friend is more comfortable and less scary than putting yourself out there to meet someone new. But there's a cost to this approach. "Look what you're getting back," Behrendt says. "Is it worth wasting that time, not meeting somebody else?"

Fashion bids adieu to Yves Saint Laurent

PARIS (AP)—Celebrities he clothed and designers he inspired gathered for the funeral of Yves Saint Laurent, a sartorial revolutionary who changed the way generations of women dressed.

Stars and couturiers filed into the Saint-Roch church in central Paris on Thursday for a final homage to the renowned fashion designer four days after he died of brain cancer at the age of 71.

First lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, a former model who strutted the catwalks to show off Saint Laurent's collections, accompanied her husband, President Nicolas Sarkozy. Like the sea of mourners, both wore black, the funereal color that also was the designer's preferred shade.

Actress Catherine Deneuve, her face drawn, bore a stalk of green wheat, which Saint Laurent loved, as she entered. She read a poem by Walt Whitman during the service.

Designers Vivienne Westwood, Jean-Paul Gaultier, Sonia Rykiel and John Galliano were among luminaries in the crowd, as was Farah Diba Pahlavi, the exiled widow of the Shah of Iran.

Applause rose among the guests as Saint Laurent's casket was taken into the flower bedecked church near the Louvre Museum and Tuileries Gardens and placed before the altar, draped in a yellow silk cloth decorated with bunches of wheat.

"This style, we find it everywhere, maybe not on the podiums but in the streets," said Pierre Berge, his companion and business partner of some 40 years.

Berge delivered a moving homage that recalled Saint Laurent's fashion debut and his extraordinary rise to fame by capturing his era and, notably, dressing women in trousers. Hundreds watched the ceremony from a giant screen outside.

AP

From left, French Culture minister Christine Albanel, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, his wife Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, Yves Saint Laurent's friend and business partner Pierre Berge, Yves Saint Laurent's mother Lucienne Mathieu-Saint Laurent and Paris mayor Bertrand Delanoe pay respect at the Saint Roch church after they attended French designer Yves Saint Laurent's funeral in Paris.

Saint Laurent was among the most influential designers during the most important era of Parisian fashion. He changed the way women dressed, most enduringly by making it glamorous and feminine to wear pants.

He was widely considered the last of a generation that included Christian Dior and Coco Chanel, and he made Paris the fashion capital of the world with the Rive Gauche, or Left Bank, as its elegant headquarters.

He got his first break at the tender age of 21, named to head the House of Dior when the master died suddenly in 1957. He opened his own haute couture fashion house with Berge in 1962. The pair later started a chain of Rive Gauche ready-to-wear boutiques.

Part of the designer's genius was empowering women without forsaking femininity and in the process changing the way women dress.

Answers to parenting questions

By BETH WHITEHOUSE
(C) 2008, NEWSDAY

Question: Brushing my 2-year-old's teeth is difficult because he won't open his mouth, or, when he does, he'll then bite down on the toothbrush. He also sucks the toothpaste off the toothbrush and swallows it. Any recommendations for my sweet, but sometimes stubborn, boy?

Answer: Dr. Mahnaz Khan applauds you. Kahn, a pediatric dentist with Hirsch, Ehrenman and Khan in Westbury, N.Y., says whatever you do, don't stop your quest to instill lifelong toothbrushing habits in your son at this early age.

It's pretty normal for a 2-year-old to rebel against the brushing habit, and you may go through a number of toothbrushes as he chomps on the bristles, agreed Dr. Homa Samimi, a pediatric dentist on Long Island, N.Y.

But stick to your goal of cleaning as many of his tooth surfaces as possible. "Most parents struggle through this," Khan said.

This is your challenge: Summon all your skills to make tooth-brushing a rollicking fun time. Here are some ideas for clowning around while brushing:

Do it together, Khan suggested. Have him brush his teeth while you are brushing yours. You'll probably have to go back into his mouth afterward to touch up his work. So let him touch up yours! He may be more willing to let you stick his toothbrush in his mouth if you let him stick yours in your mouth. Kids love that kind of interaction.

Another fantastic development is the electronic toothbrush. Let him pick one with a cartoon character on it, or one that has flashing lights or music. The musical choice is a great one because it actually times the brushing—he should brush until the music stops, Khan said.

Do the brushing in the bathtub. Khan said she recommends this especially for children who are sloppy brushers. If they are in the tub bathing anyway, who cares if they are drooling toothpaste down their tummies?

Establish a reward system. Give him some small token such as a sticker each time he brushes, Khan suggested.

As for the toothpaste sucking, make sure you are using non-flouridated toothpaste, for sale in the toothpaste aisle of your grocery or drugstore, Samimi said. That way, it's not such a big deal if your toddler is swallowing it.

"Usually around 3 years of age, children feel more comfortable spitting out the toothpaste," Samimi said.

If you can't get the toothbrush into your son's mouth, at least brush the outside surfaces of his teeth. If you get the toothbrush in but he clamps down on it, you can at least maneuver it as best as possible to hit the surfaces you can.

If you still find your son is completely uncooperative, you may have to settle for holding him still and making him brush, because childhood tooth decay is not something you want for your child, Khan said. By this age, you need to be cleaning his teeth with a toothbrush, not the washcloth that parents use on infants. However, you're walking a fine line because you don't want to turn him off to brushing, Khan said.

THREE WISE GUYS

Leaf-blowers, falling through earth, fitted sheets

By JOE HEIM, JUSTIN RUDE and DAN ZAK
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Dear Wise Guys:

What do you think the punishment should be for a neighbor who takes his leaf blower up on his roof and spends a solid hour blowing every molecule of dirt off a tiny (maybe 20-by-30-foot) area while people over a block away are deafened by the noise? He gets extra credit because a neighbor who saw him decided to follow suit.—Jennifer

Justin: If you fight fire with fire, it stands to reason you should fight air with air. With a resume that includes years of professional groundskeeping, I feel comfortable recommending the fine orange machines made by Stihl. Don't go for the compact and portable hand blowers. They aren't going to impress your neighbor nearly as much as the far more robust backpack models.

Personally, I would go for the BR 600, the Cadillac of leaf blowers, which cranks out wind at an incredible 226 mph with an earsplitting 75-decibel roar. You would be the roof-blower queen of the neighborhood. That thing is so strong that a careless teenage employee could use it to dent a company car with small rocks. Not that I would know anything about that.

Joe: What Justin is recommending is going to lead to a leaf-blower arms race that will leave the neighborhood sounding like a NASCAR event every Saturday morning. Remember, just because this guy blows more than anyone else on the block doesn't make him a villain. Why don't you just ask him (politely) to blow less? If that doesn't work, you and your neighbors should try picketing in front of his house while wearing giant protective ear gear and carrying signs with such slogans as, "Dude, your roof really isn't that dirty."

■ ■ ■ ■

Dear Wise Guys:

If you could put a pipe through the Earth (let's say North Pole to South Pole) and be insulated from the heat in the middle, and you jumped into the pipe, would you fall out the other side or float in the middle?—Ron

Dan: We thought about calling the folks at the North American Jules Verne Society but figured their answer would go something like, "You'd be spewed from a steamy volcano on the Italian island of Stromboli!" Which is incorrect.

Also incorrect: your guesses. Falling out the other side and floating in the middle are two of the most frequent wrong answers given by students in physics professor Jerry Feldman's introductory class at George Washington University, where this very scenario is posed to illustrate oscillatory motion. The correct answer, according to Feldman: You'd "bounce" back and forth between the poles, zooming "downward" toward the center and then slowing "upward" till you reached the other side, then falling back "down."

P.S. How long would a round trip take you? Ninety minutes. What's the Earth's diameter between the poles? About 7,900 miles. We'd try to calculate average speed, but factoring acceleration into the old rt = d formula is a collegiate skill that hasn't stuck with us.

P.P.S. We assume that heat, pressure, air resistance and subterranean prehistoric monsters are not factors.

■ ■ ■ ■

Dear Wise Guys:

I'm surprised that such clever guys didn't see the obvious when you answered the question about how to fold fitted sheets. You always use the same set of sheets. Just wash them and put them back on. In the unlikely event that you have two sets of unfolded sheets, ask a friend who can fold sheets to do the second set, and then leave it in the closet until the first set wears out.—Dottie

Joe: We are kicking ourselves—and each other—for not coming up with this. It really is a brilliant solution. Consider yourself an honorary Wise Guy gal. Your check is in the mail.

Dan: And by check we mean Bundt cake.

Justin: And by Bundt cake we mean nothing.

ABOUT THE WISE GUYS

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Q: What is this bunk?

A: Three Wise Guys is a weekly column that considers obscure, trivial and/or asinine topics suggested by readers. It seeks to address questions that cannot be answered by the likes of Miss Manners, Dan Savage, Dear Abby, Stephen Hawking or Drs. Laura or Phil. It appears in the Sunday Washington Post and at www.washingtonpost.com/wiseguys.

Q: Who are these guys?

A: They are Joe Heim, Justin Rude and Dan Zak. Justin and Dan are age 30 or younger. Joe is old enough to be their father. (A teen-age father, yes, but still.) Dan was born and raised on the banks of Lake Erie in Buffalo. Joe was born in Morocco and spent his formative years in Philadelphia. Justin hails from Seattle but has been spending his days in the District of Columbia and nights in Virginia for the past 20 years.

Q: How did three no-talents get their own column?

A: This is the one question that even the Wise Guys can't answer.

Q: Do the guys make up the questions?

A: No. They have a hard enough time making up the answers.

Q: Why haven't they answered my question?

A: Restrictions in space-time. They'll get to it eventually; keep checking the paper. If they don't plan to answer your question in print, they might send you a conciliatory e-mail. Like, "Sorry we can't answer your question because it has no inherent humor, insight or desperation."

Q: Exactly how are you defining "wise"?

A: Really good-looking.

Q: When is their book coming out?

A: They are waiting by the phone for literary agents to call.

Have a question only the Three Wise Guys can answer? Send it to wiseguys@washpost.com and await their words of wise-dom.

Carell jokes about kiss with The Rock

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Steve Carell, who plays Maxwell Smart in the upcoming spy comedy "Get Smart," says he had a scent-sational time kissing co-star Dwayne Johnson, who most might recognize as "The Rock."

"The Rock has softer lips. I guess I could say that," the 44-year-old actor told AP Television. "He smells like strawberry shortcake. For me, that's why they call him The Rock. He rocks people's worlds."

Johnson countered that he doesn't smell or taste like strawberry shortcake—"strawberry shortcake with liver I think."

The 36-year-old wrestler-turned-actor said he was gung-ho about planting a kiss on Carell.

"It was just one of those things where I thought well, you know, 'What could be the most entertaining and funniest moment that we could think of that would still make sense and still kind of root in reality?'"

"We came up with a great kiss," said Johnson, who plays Agent 23. "I thought if Jake Gyllenhaal can do it, Will Smith can do it, then I can do it, too. I'm going to own it. I was like, 'Give me those lips right now. Right now.'"

Said Carell: "He is such a good guy. We just laughed that whole day. That was a total no-brainer in terms of that scene. There was never one moment of hesitation or awkwardness. He's game for anything, let me put it that way."

"Get Smart," also starring Anne Hathaway as Agent 99, is slated for release June 20.

Dwayne Johnson, left, Anne Hathaway, center, and Steve Carell present an award at the MTV Movie Awards on Sunday June 1, 2008 in Los Angeles.

AP

Conference examines TV hit 'Buffy'

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Aristotle. Nietzsche. Buffy? The blond heroine of the campy TV series "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," as well as other works by creator Joss Whedon, will be the focus of a three-day academic conference beginning Friday at Henderson State University.

The show starring Sarah Michelle Gellar won cult fame and critical praise during its seven seasons on The WB and UPN networks.

Since it ended, the series has spawned enough academic books on the philosophy surrounding the roles of friendship and feminism to fill a 15-foot-wide bookshelf at the college in Arkadelphia, said Kevin Durand, an associate professor of philosophy.

"It has staying power," Durand said. "It's like I tell my students in philosophy a lot of times: We're not so much about necessarily finding all the answers as wanting to ask better questions. 'Buffy,' I think, does that. `Buffy' never really leaves you with nice, pat answers. You have even more questions than when you started."

AP

In this May 5, 2008 file photo, actress Sarah Michelle Gellar arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute Gala in New York.

Durand said more than 90 academic papers will be discussed at the conference. He expects about 150 people to attend and discuss the vampire slayer and Whedon's other works, including the television series "Firefly" and "Angel." Another point of discussion will be a lesser-known part of Whedon's work - his screenplay for the hit animated film "Toy Story."

Among the papers: "Buffy and Feminism," "Buffy and Identity," "Gender Stereotypes and the Image of Domesticity in `Firefly,'" "`Firefly:' The Illusive Safety of Big Damn Heroes" and a Durand favorite by a British scholar, "Hero's Journey, Heroine's Return: Buffy, Eurydice and the Orpheus Myth."

"That one just sounds cool," he said.

Durand, who contributed an academic paper at each of the two previous Buffy conferences, often focuses on how power plays into the "Buffy" series. He said much of the heroine's strength came from others and her willingness to work with friends in her fight against creatures of the night.

Ed McMahon talks about a possible home foreclosure

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ed McMahon blames the possible foreclosure of his multimillion-dollar Beverly Hills house on a set of problems all too familiar to many Americans: a foundering economy, health problems and poor planning.

"If you spend more money than you make, you know what happens," McMahon said Thursday night on CNN's "Larry King Live." "You know, a couple of divorces thrown in, a few things like that. And, you know, things happen."

McMahon, 85, appeared with his wife, Pamela. The couple said they are $644,000 behind on their mortgage payments and are in negotiations with lender Countrywide Home Loans Inc. to set a foreclosure date.

McMahon, in a neck brace, said he had stopped working since he broke his neck in a fall 18 months ago. He didn't elaborate.

McMahon, who was Johnny Carson's sidekick on the "Tonight" show, said the house had been on the market for two years and that although 50 organizations or individuals had looked at it, no one had made an offer. Documents show McMahon has a $4.8 million mortgage on the home.

"It's like a perfect storm," he said. "Economy problems. Selling the house right now is a tremendous operation."

McMahon bought the six-bedroom, five-bathroom, 7,000-square-foot house in January 1990. The mansion, which is listed at $6.25 million, is in a gated hilltop section off Mulholland Drive called The Summit. Britney Spears is among his neighbors.

Asked why a millionaire couldn't make house payments, Pamela McMahon said the couple had less money than people may think and suggested they could have done a better job managing their finances.

"We didn't keep our eye on the ball. We made mistakes," she said. "It's embarrassing to say the least, and it's sad, because you know, Ed's worked his whole entire life."

McMahon, a former pitchman for the American Family Publishers' sweepstakes and former "Star Search" host, received a $7.2 million settlement after a toxic mold spread through his house and led to the death of their dog in 2001.

With legal fees and construction costs of fixing the mold problem, the money did not go far, McMahon said.

"We had nine lawyers, they had nine lawyers," McMahon said. "By the time that's all over, and you rebuild the house from the outside in. ... A lot of things went wrong."

Still, McMahon said he was hopeful. He said there has been renewed interest in the house this week.

"I'm optimistic," he said.

Romo, Timberlake break 100 at US Open course

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo and singer Justin Timberlake may not be qualified to play in the U.S. Open, but both proved they could break 100 Friday on Torrey Pines' South Course.

The pair joined "Today" host Matt Lauer and a regular guy from Omaha, Neb., in a foursome bent on disproving Tiger Woods' theory that it takes a pro to beat the course.

Romo, who missed qualifying for the U.S. Open this spring, won with a 13-over 84. The beefy quarterback, who boasts a 2.2 handicap index, barely broke a sweat playing the first nine holes in 5-over 40 but slowed as the six-hour round wore on.

"It got really tough to stay sharp," he said, nodding toward the 18th hole, where he had his only double bogey after hitting into a bunker.

Timberlake, suffering from allergies, seconded Romo, although his game improved over the last four holes with two pars and two bogeys as he went into "Michael Jordan mode." A 6.0 handicap index, he parred the 18th to finish at 27-over 98.

"It's just inhuman, how well they strike it," he said, referring to Woods and his ilk.

Timberlake, outfitted in a dashing black trilby hat and tuxedo-stripe pants, started hamming it up with the gallery once his taut dancer's swing started to go south, blowing on the ball as it rimmed the seventh hole without any luck and asking the crowd to approve his drop into the rough at the edge of the fairway.

He couldn't blame his troubles on Mother Nature, either, after he skipped off the course after teeing off at the first hole and making a beeline for the men's room.

"Excuse me! I knew I forgot something," he called out to laughing spectators in his soft Tennessee drawl.

Lauer scraped by with a 100 on the par-71 course despite playing with a 6.2 handicap index. He came back from an early quad and a series of double bogeys to make a par 5 on the final hole.

"It's not easy," he said. "I didn't think Tiger made an outrageous statement."

The only one of the four who didn't seem to mind the scores was John Atkinson, a medical salesman from Omaha, Neb., who was chosen from 56,374 essay applicants to play in the challenge. He finished with a 43-over 114.

"At some point I just didn't really care," said Atkinson, who is undergoing treatment for advanced inoperable lung cancer. "I just wanted to enjoy it."

AP

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo watches his tee shot on the fourth hole of the South Course at Torrey Pines during the U.S. Open Golf Challenge event held Friday, June 6, 2008, in San Diego.

Atkinson had a 56-person cheering section with him. They shouted "C'mon, Johnny!" when his ball hit the green and gave sympathetic claps and "awws" when he disappeared into the bunkers.

His friend, Dave Leahy, said the crowd joined Atkinson as he trained in Omaha to prepare him for the pressure playing in front of an audience.

"He was out there every Saturday with 50 people pretending to be the gallery and wearing a mike so he'd get used to it," Leahy said.

He gave his caddy, noted sports psychologist Bob Rotella, a sweet shrug after chasing the ball around the green before making his putt on the fifth hole.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience for him," said his wife, Lori. "It doesn't matter."

Woods told reporters last year at Oakmont, generally considered the toughest golf course in America, that no 10-handicapper could break 100. With Torrey Pines refurbished into a 7,643-yard "monster" - the longest in U.S. Open history - it served as a suitable stand-in for the challenge, hosted by Golf Digest magazine and NBC.

Torrey Pines, named for the rare gnarled trees that dot the cliffside course, will be the first city-owned golf course to host a U.S. Open starting next Thursday.

Jewel honored for 18M US album sales

Country music artist Jewel, right, receives a plaque commemorating 18 million in U.S. record sales, prior to her autograph session at the CMA Music Festival on Thursday, June 5, 2008, in Nashville, Tenn. Shown with Jewel is Jennifer Alves of the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA).

AP

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Jewel has been honored by the Recording Industry Association of America with a career milestone plaque commemorating sales of more than 18 million albums in the U.S.

Jenny Alves, RIAA's coordinator of artist industry relations, surprised the 34-year-old singer Thursday as she prepared to sign autographs at the Country Music Association festival.

"This is awesome. Thank you so much," said the singer, who also was scheduled to perform at the festival.

Jewel, whose full name is Jewel Kilcher, released a country album, "Perfectly Clear," on Tuesday. The lead single, "Stronger Woman," is No. 15 on the Billboard chart.

Perhaps best known for her pop and rock hits that include "Foolish Games" and "You Were Meant for Me," Jewel has sold 27 million albums worldwide since her 1995 debut.

She is touring with Brad Paisley this summer.

Wong Kar-wai to head Shanghai filmfest jury

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong director Wong Kar-wai will head the jury at the Shanghai International Film Festival, which will be held June 14-22.

Wong, known for his moody visuals and melancholy soundtracks, won best director at the Cannes Film Festival for "Happy Together."

He replaces filmmaker Anthony Minghella, who died of a hemorrhage in March following surgery.

According to the festival's Web site, the jury will also include veteran Chinese actress Joan Chen, German producer Ulrich Felsberg, Danish director Bille August, Israeli writer Gila Almagor, Japanese director Kaori Momoi and Chinese director Huo Jianqi.

The jury will award the festival's top Jin Jue prize.

This year's competition lineup includes movies from China, Europe, Japan, Argentina, South Korea, Lithuania, Russia, the Czech Republic and New Zealand.

A retrospective of Minghella's work is being planned by the festival, a spokeswoman said earlier this week.

Vin Diesel, girlfriend have a daughter

NEW YORK (AP)—Vin Diesel is a dad. Diesel, star of "The Pacifier" and "The Chronicles of Riddick," and his girlfriend, model Paloma Jimenez, welcomed a baby girl in Los Angeles on April 2, his representative, Meredith O'Sullivan, said in an e-mail Friday.

O'Sullivan said the 40-year-old action star wasn't releasing the baby's name.

Diesel's screen credits also include "The Fast and the Furious," "Boiler Room" and "Saving Private Ryan." He'll next be seen in the sci-fi movie "Babylon A.D.," slated for release Aug. 29.

In this file photo from March 14, 2006, actor Vin Diesel, arrives to the premiere of his new film "Find Me Guilty", in New York.

AP

Anne Heche pays price in divorce

Actress Anne Heche, left, is joined by husband Coleman Laffoon as she arrives for the Emmy Awards Sept. 19, 2004, at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Anne Heche's five-year marriage to Coleman Laffoon is officially over, but not without a pinch to her pocketbook.

A judge ruled that Heche must pay $275,000 to her ex-husband, along with monthly child-support payments of $3,700 for the care of their 6-year-old son, Homer, according to court documents released Friday.

Heche will also have to pay 75 percent of Homer's private-school tuition. The couple agreed to split the cost of any "agreed upon extracurricular activities" for their son.

Heche, 39, and Laffoon, 34, were married Sept. 1, 2001. He filed for divorce on Feb. 2, citing irreconcilable differences.

Heche starred in TV's "Men in Trees." She and Laffoon, a cameraman, met while working on a documentary about Ellen DeGeneres—with whom Heche was romantically linked for three years.

Wonder Woman actress finds body in river

WASHINGTON (AP)—The actress who played Wonder Woman on TV in the 1970s says she didn't do anything extraordinary when she discovered a body this week on the Potomac River in Washington.

Lynda Carter tells The Washington Post she was alone in a boat when she saw the body Wednesday. She says she didn't have a cell phone with her, so she yelled to some fishermen and asked them to call police. Carter waited until rescuers arrived and directed them to the body.

District of Columbia police say the body of 47-year-old Helen Johnstone of Washington was found floating on the river Wednesday. The medical examiner's office has not declared an official cause of death.

Carter says she "did what anybody would have done."

Friend's foul language causes welcome mat to be withdrawn

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My mother is very strict about the use of obscenities, so I don't use them at home. However, I have become close friends with "Mallory," and cuss words are part of her normal speech.

I have been to Mallory's house where swear words are normal among her parents and siblings. (Her parents are worse than she is in this regard.) I know it's not right, but it's the way she has been brought up.

Recently, Mallory spent the night here, and my mother heard her cuss. My younger sister was in the room. After Mallory left, my mother said she will not tolerate such "filth" and said Mallory is no longer welcome in our home, especially because she thought nothing of exposing my sister to such language.

Abby, Mallory is a loyal, caring friend. Her behavior is the result of her upbringing. I don't think it's fair to ban her from our house. I would ask her not to talk this way in our home, but I think she might slip up and sometimes forget. Have you any suggestions?

TARZANA, CALIF., TEEN

DEAR TARZANA TEEN: While I understand your mother's point, if she thinks banishing Mallory will prevent foul language from reaching your sister's tender ears, she doesn't know what kids are saying in the halls of many schools today.

If you haven't already done so, level with Mallory. Tell her how offended your mother was at the language she used. It's important for your friend to know that while profanity may be acceptable in her home, there are places where it is deeply offensive, and your home is one of them. Then ask Mallory to call your mother and apologize. If she does, your mother may relent.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: A friend and I went to dinner at a local restaurant last night with our three young children. The oldest is 8; the other two are babies. We were seated next to a boisterous group of young women. As if their noise level wasn't enough, they proceeded to discuss certain bodily functions that are not appropriate for the dinner table, let alone a public place.

Needless to say, the impressionable 8-year-old got an earful and began asking questions. I had no idea how to answer him or to get the women to lower the noise level. How should I handle the situation should it arise again?

OFFENDED IN THE DESERT

DEAR OFFENDED: You should get up, ask the host or hostess to seat you as far from the "distraction" as possible, and explain why. That way no more parties that include children will be seated next to them.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was held back a year in junior high school. Two years later I went and earned my G.E.D.

If I had stayed in school and not been held back, I would have graduated in 1981. (The extra year would put my graduation in 1982.) Which high school reunion should I go to? Or am I excluded from attending any reunions because I didn't officially graduate? Where do I fit in?

MYSTIFIED IN OHIO

DEAR MYSTIFIED: Rather than asking where you fit in, consider in which class you had the most friends—because that's the reunion you should attend. That gathering is where you will be more welcomed, even though you did not "officially" graduate with them.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	**$13.00**
2nd position	**$5.00**
Succeeding positions	**$2.00**

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for $.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

HOPE
STRENGTH
JOY
"When I grow up, I want to become a police officer!"
"I want to meet Winnie the Pooh!"
"My wish is to go shopping!"
90 wishes granted over 15 years of serving Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan
MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at
865 S. Marine Dr., Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104
Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

The Saipan Tribune now offers
Classified Ads Super Saver Package
for Print and Online Editions
A complete 7-day run for car sales, employment, garage sales, apartment rentals, announcements, lost and found, business services, and more…
3-LINER AD $25
3-LINER AD W/ PHOTO $45
5-LINER AD $35
5-LINER AD W/ PHOTO $55
Get results. Advertise now!
Call now at 235-2769 for more details.
Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
CLASSIFIED ADS
CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

For rent: Unfurnished 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, spacious yard with remote–entry. Completely enclosed for privacy. This must see house is near Kagman High School. Cha-Cha Jr. High and the LauLau Golf Course. $1,000 or best offer with security deposit. Contact #322-0922.

Apartment Room for Rent
2 Bedroom. $230.00. Koblerville.
Tel. # 288-0728-Yoon Won Suck

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

FOR SALE

BUD'S BAR For Sale
$15,000 all inclusive. Stop by to see for yourself. Contact LES @ 898-4866

Federer vs. Nadal in final again

PARIS (AP)—As the points piled up and the light faded, it was tough to decide which scenario had seemed less likely at the outset of the French Open semifinals Friday: That Rafael Nadal would be so dominant during a 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (3) victory over Novak Djokovic, a man who is, after all, ranked No. 3 and a Grand Slam champion? Or that Roger Federer would run into so much trouble before winning 6-2, 5-7, 6-3, 7-5 against Gael Monfils, a man who is, after all, ranked 59th and a major semifinalist for the first time?

Then again, by the end of the day, Roland Garros once more produced the likeliest of all championship matches: No. 1 Federer vs. No. 2 Nadal.

"Rafa again, across the net—it's the ultimate test on clay. It would be so much better to win the French Open by beating him," Federer said. "It should be entertaining to watch."

The showdown Sunday is their third consecutive French Open final, their fifth Grand Slam final overall, and plenty is on the line.

Nadal can become the first man since Bjorn Borg in 1978-81 to win the tournament four years in a row. Federer can add the lone major trophy missing from his collection, thereby making him the sixth man to complete a career Grand Slam and increasing his total haul to 13 majors, one shy of Pete Sampras' record.

"What's special is winning the tournament, not beating Federer," said Nadal's uncle and coach, Toni. "But if Rafael beats Federer, it means more."

Federer is 6-10 overall against Nadal, including 1-8 on clay and 0-3 at the French Open, where they also met in the 2005 semifinals.

"I will try everything," Federer said. "I hope I will finally win here."

Nadal hasn't lost at Roland Garros. Ever. He improved to 27-0 by beating Djokovic, who won the Australian Open in January and would have overtaken Nadal in the rankings by beating him.

But by the sixth game, Djokovic's cheeks were flush from exertion and he was gasping for air. Nadal make him look like a first-round opponent who had come through qualifying.

"Almost perfect," was the way Nadal described his performance. "Best match at Roland Garros so far, no?"

Federer's semifinal was second, so he took advantage of the opportunity to watch his nemesis.

"Rafa played fantastic for basically the entire time," said Federer, who helped his own cause by winning the point on 49 of 64 trips to the net against Monfils.

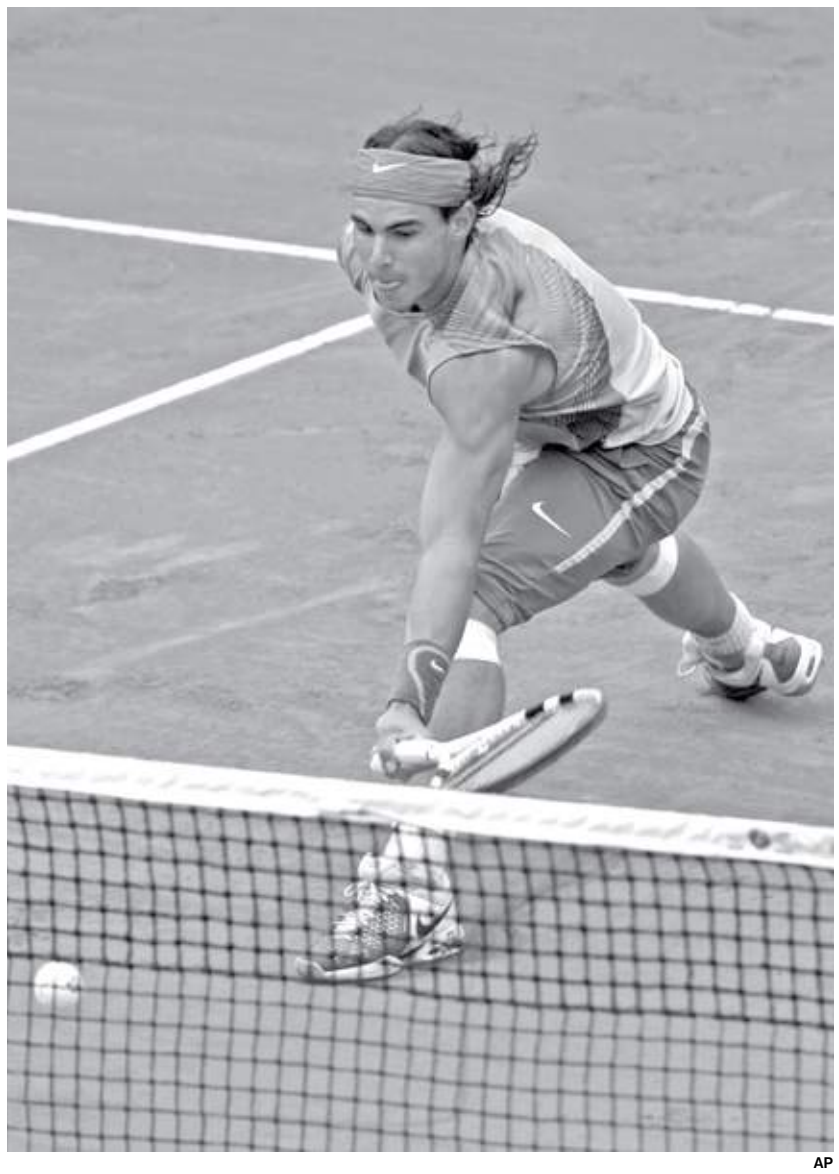
Nadal does his finest work along the baseline, and the longer the point, the better, as far as he's concerned. Against Djokovic, he won 32 of the 48 points that lasted at least 10 strokes, according to a tally compiled by The Associated Press.

In addition to showing up on the scoreboard, each of those extended rallies—often prolonged by Nadal's tremendous defense—can take a toll on an opponent's body and morale.

"Sometimes," Djokovic acknowledged, "it's really frustrating when you can't make a winner."

He didn't register his second forehand winner until the second set, which says far less about Djokovic's ability than Nadal's knack for getting to the ball.

Djokovic finally made a stand after trailing 3-0 in the third set, but by then the final outcome hardly seemed in doubt. Even French tennis federation president Christian Bimes, seated next to Borg in the front row, motioned toward someone with a pinkie and thumb near an ear, the international signal for, "Let's talk on the phone."



AP

Defending champion Spain's Rafael Nadal returns the ball to Serbia's Novak Djokovic during their semifinal match of the French Open tennis tournament, Friday, June 6, 2008 at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris.

Djokovic reached set point while leading 6-5 in the third, but Nadal erased that with a cross-court forehand that wrong-footed the Serb. Later, Nadal said he was trying to hit a safe shot, not a winner. That's how things went for the Spaniard, who then built a 6-0 lead in the tiebreaker.

"He showed again that in the most important moments, he's very strong mentally," Djokovic said.

The same could be said of Federer, who reached his 15th Grand Slam final, tied for fifth-most in history.

Monfils, an enthusiastic Frenchman backed Friday by about 15,000 of his closest friends in the center court stands, is unaccustomed to this sort of high-pressure match, having never before been beyond the fourth round at a major. He began the match by double-faulting on the way to getting broken at love, something he later attributed to contact-lens problems.

"The key to the match," Federer called that start. "He was always trailing."

Well, not quite, because when Federer dumped a volley into the net, then shanked a forehand, Monfils broke him to take the second set. All even. Monfils strutted to the sideline pounding his chest with a fist.

When Monfils held for a 1-0 lead in the third, he technically was ahead, but Federer broke two games later. There were worrisome moments to come for Federer, including when he blew a set point and was broken while serving for the third set at 5-3. He broke right back, however.

Little came easy in the fourth set, either, when Monfils earned six break points, two at a time at 1-1, 2-2 and 3-3. Federer saved them all, making him 10-for-13 for the match.

Monfils kept things interesting, saving two match points—one with a 128 mph ace—while trailing 5-4 in the fourth set. When the 21-year-old who shows up at postmatch news conferences wearing NFL or college football jerseys held to 5-5 with a 124 mph service winner, he stood in the middle of the court and raised his arms, encouraging the partisan crowd to get louder.

"I thought that would put pressure on Roger," Monfils said, "but he didn't feel any pressure."

Alas for the locals, Monfils wouldn't win another game.

Federer finished him off with two volley winners, then shook his racket as he skipped to the net, knowing full well what awaits.

"Honestly, I felt relief," Federer said. "And then, 5 or 10 seconds later, I started thinking about another final. That's where I want to be."

Bryant hopes to get same opportunities in Game 2

BOSTON (AP)—One sub-par performance can happen to anyone.

Another, perhaps just a fluke.

Could three be a trend?

Nah, not in the case of Kobe Bryant.

"I get those looks again, I'm foaming at the mouth," the Los Angeles star said Friday. "I want those looks again. I would never be bashful, you know that."

Bryant's remarks came in the wake of a horrendous—for him—shooting performance Thursday night, when he went 9-for-26 and scored 24 points in the Lakers' 98-88 loss to the Boston Celtics in Game 1 of the NBA finals.

Bryant shot nearly 51 percent (169-of-332) and averaged 31.9 points in the Lakers' previous 15 postseason games. The Celtics did a good job making him a perimeter player, but as he pointed out, there was no scarcity of open shots.

"They're not going to let me get to the paint from the top of the floor or from a wing screen," Bryant said. "I'll be looking for my teammates in those situations. Other spots where I'm posting up or pin-downs, quick catch-and-shoots, things of that nature. That's what I'll be looking for."

Bryant shot 15-for-46 and averaged 25 points in two regular-season games against Boston—both losses. So he's 24-for-72 (33.3 percent) with 74 points in three unsuccessful matchups with the Celtics.

"Hopefully it just means I'm due," he said regarding Sunday night's second game in the best-of-seven series.

Despite Bryant's shooting problems, the Lakers trailed by only four points after Sasha Vujacic's basket with 6:53 remaining Thursday night. But they made only one field goal after that.

Bryant, acknowledged to be NBA's best closer, shot 1-for-6 in the fourth quarter. As a team, the Lakers were a woeful 5-for-20.

"The defense is there," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "He didn't get to the basket, he didn't get to the foul line. Foul shots are really important for scoring, and again, they eliminated a lot of his ability to get to the foul line. So there's some things they did very well.

"But as we all saw, there was a lot of shots there that just didn't go down for him that were in-and-out. So that's a matter of understanding his baskets, getting a touch on them and figuring it out."

Bryant and his teammates spent plenty of time shooting the ball Friday.

"The shots didn't go in," Vujacic said. "We had a bunch of in-and-outs."

The solution?

"You just take extra shots in practice and just make them in Game 2," Vujacic replied. "The baskets here are different than in any other arena. You've got to get used to it and make those in-and-outs. It's just different."

Lamar Odom said Bryant's tough shooting night was part of the game.

"It happens," Odom said. "You make some, you miss some. We can win with Kobe shooting bad, we're good enough to win ballgames no matter how bad he shoots. Of course, if he scores 55, if he scores 48, that helps."

The Celtics realize Bryant could score 55, or 48, at any time.

"Kobe is a great player, so we're just going to show up again Sunday expecting him to be a great player," Boston coach Doc Rivers said. "If it was easy to stop him, he wouldn't be a great player. We expect him to be great."

Said Kevin Garnett: "I thought teamwise we did a real good job of communicating and setting up our wall, as we put it, in trying to control him. We're anticipating him being a lot more aggressive in Game 2."

Ray Allen, the Celtics' primary defender on Bryant, said he believes his team was well-prepared for Bryant after having to deal with the likes of Atlanta's Joe Johnson, Cleveland's LeBron James and several Detroit standouts earlier in the playoffs.

"We definitely have learned a lot of lessons," Allen said. "I think we'd just like to continue to make our men make tough shots.

"I hope he keeps missing."

The Lakers need more than a better shooting performance from Bryant. Improved boardwork would certainly help. The Celtics won the rebounding battle 46-33 including 26-18 in the second half, when they outscored Los Angeles 52-37.

The Celtics had 12 second-chance points to only four for the Lakers.

"We like to get up and down, so we've got to make sure we rebound the ball," Bryant said. "Rebound the ball, get a chance to get out a little bit. For us, it's just about pushing the basketball and getting into our offense early.

"We've got to put more bodies on them. I think the team we played against in Utah, they were extremely physical, similar to Boston, in terms of how they put their hands on you and shove you underneath the paint. We've got to go back to how we made those adjustments against Utah."

Gusting winds help create 6-way logjam at St. Jude

STANFORD ST. JUDE CHAMPIONSHIP

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Everyone at the TPC Southwind wanted a nice warmup for the U.S. Open. They got as good a simulation as possible Friday thanks to gusting wind and firm greens that made par an attractive score.

Tommy Armour III double-bogeyed No. 18 and fell into a six-way tie atop the leaderboard after two rounds at the Stanford St. Jude Championship on a day where only 13 players were under par. It was the most players tied for lead at the halfway point on the PGA Tour since a six-way tie last year at the Shell Houston Open.

Armour finished with a 71. He was tied with Gavin Coles, whose 64 was the low round through the first two days, Dean Wilson (68), Jason Dufner (68), Michael Bradley (68) and Marc Turnesa (69) at 3-under 137—the highest 36-hole total on the PGA Tour since Angel Cabrera at the Open last year when he was at even par-140.

"Thirty-six holes left, I make bogeys and doubles. It's the way it happens," Armour said.

Coles credited patience for his six-birdie, bogey-free round in an event where the cut came at 5 over.

"It's pretty slow out there really. So you can sort of back off and have another look and sort of take a bit of time, sort of wait for the gusts to go by," he said. "It was difficult, but you now I think if you putted well today you would have had a pretty decent score. ... When I did get in trouble, my putter sort of got me out of it a little."

Vijay Singh started the day in third, two strokes back of the lead at 3 under. He finished with a 71 and was tied for seventh with Alex Cejka (69), Michael Letzig (68) and Davis Love III (70) at 138.

"I'm glad to get in under par," Love said.

So even though the TPC at Southwind never will be mistaken for what they will face at the U.S. Open, Singh called it a good test for those tuning up for Torrey Pines with the gusting winds making club selection difficult.

"It gets you in the game, keeps you very focused. You can lose your focus out there. Once you do that, you're going to shoot a number," Singh said.

Armour started the day a stroke off the lead. He missed a chance to keep the lead to himself on the par-4 18th when he hit his tee shot into the lake that runs along the fairway and fronts the green. He missed a 16-foot putt to salvage bogey that would have given him a one-shot lead, but he wasn't worried with 36 holes left.

"You got to hit good shots, quality shots, and (I) hit a lot of them today and I played as good as I did yesterday. So looking forward to tomorrow," Armour said.

Boo Weekley was the first-round leader, and his one-stroke margin held up until midway through the afternoon before he fell apart.

He was tied with Armour at 5 under, then had a three-way tie with Wilson at 4 under before Weekley's lone birdie put him back atop the leaderboard at 5 under. Then Weekley made the turn onto the front nine where he carded three bogeys and a double bogey to finish with a 75 for a 140 total.

Bradley is working his way back into form on a major medical exemption after breaking his right ankle playing softball last year and in only his fourth event of the year.

"It's imperative you drive it in the fairway this week due to the wind conditions and the firmness of the greens. It allows you to control the flight and the spin of the ball. If you hit it out of the rough, you can't control either. ... That's one thing I've done pretty good this week is driven the ball in play," Bradley said.

The biggest problems came after balls had been hit.

"There's a ton of water on some holes," said Jason Dufner, who was at 137 after a 68. "You know you just catch a gust, and it's almost like you feel helpless sometimes."

Bob Estes, who won here in 2001, had a 65 that was second only to Coles and finished in a three-way tie for 11th at 139. He started in the morning but said the wind was really howling.

"It was hard to even step up to the shot and hit it, it was blowing so hard," Estes said. "I'm thinking in particular about the second shot at No. 5. We're playing dead into the south wind and just ripped a 4-iron. I was trying to carry the ball maybe 185 yards. I normally hit a 4-iron 205."

Webb notches 11th win as Diamondbacks down Pirates

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Arizona's Brandon Webb became Major League Baseball's first 11-game winner this season, holding Pittsburgh to just one run over seven innings, and driving in a run, as the Diamondbacks' beat the Pirates 3-1 in the National League on Friday.

Webb, coming off a shutout win over Washington the previous weekend, didn't allow a hit until a two-out single in the fifth. The right-hander has permitted only one extra-base hit in 16 innings over his past two starts.

Reds 11, Marlins 3

In Miami, Jay Bruce continued his sizzling start in the majors with three hits and three more RBIs as Cincinatti beat Florida.

Bruce—the Reds' first-round draft pick three years ago—went 3-for-4, and is now hitting .463 with 10 RBIs in 11 games since being called up from the minor leagues.

Johnny Cueto pitched six innings to win his third straight start for Cincinnati.

Astros 6, Cardinals 1

In Houston, the home side won with the aid of three runs scored on St. Louis errors.

Hunter Pence had an RBI double for the Astros.

Giants 10, Nationals 1

In Washington, Tim Lincecum pitched seven sharp innings to win his fourth straight decision as San Francisco trounced Washington.

Jose Castillo hit a three-run homer for San Francisco.

Lincecum didn't allow a hit until a two-out single in the fourth. He gave up just one run, struck out five and walked none.

The Giants backed Lincecum with seven runs in the third, capped off by Jose Castillo's three-run homer.

Phillies 4, Braves 3

In Atlanta, Philadelphia center fielder Shane Victorino drove in the go-ahead run with a triple in the 10th, then threw out a runner at the plate to prevent a tying run in the bottom of the inning, condemning Atlanta to yet another one-run loss.

The Phillies took advantage of a ninth-inning error to tie the game 2-2.

Victorino's second triple of the game made it 3-2 and the Phillies then added another.

Atlanta cut the deficit to one run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth, and almost got level with the close play at the plate.

The Braves are a majors-worst 3-17 in one-run games.

Rockies 6, Brewers 4

In Denver, Colorado rattled on five runs in the eighth inning to rally past Milwaukee.

Garrett Atkins tied the game with a two-run triple and Brad Hawpe gave Colorado the lead with a two-run homer.

Hawpe, who was activated off the 15-day disabled list before the game, homered on the first pitch from reliever Brian Shouse.

The loss snapped the Brewers' six-game winning streak.

Padres 2, Mets 1

In San Diego, Randy Wolf pitched seven strong innings to steer San Diego to its third straight 2-1 win, downing New York.

Kevin Kouzmanoff drove in the go-ahead run.

Wolf limited the Mets to one run in seven innings and worked out of two bases-loaded jams.

Dodgers 3, Cubs 0

In Los Angeles, Hiroki Kuroda allowed only four hits and struck out a career-high 11 in his first complete game, leading Los Angeles over Chicago.

Kuroda did not walk a batter in his 13th big league start, induced two double plays and allowed only one baserunner as far as third.

The Cubs, who lead the majors and have the most runs, were shut out for the third time this season. It was the first complete game pitched against Chicago this season.

Mariners 8, Red Sox 0

In Boston, Felix Hernandez held a Boston Red Sox lineup without Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz to six hits over six innings and the Seattle Mariners snapped a four-game losing streak.

Hernandez (4-5) earned his first road victory since April 16.

Three Boston errors, two by starter Bartolo Colon, led to the Mariners' first three runs.

Richie Sexson, Ichiro Suzuki and Jose Vidro all had two RBIs for the Mariners.

Bartolo Colon (3-1) lost for the first time in his Red Sox career.

Sean Casey had three hits for the Red Sox, who had a 13-game home winning streak snapped.

Indians 4, Tigers 2

At Detroit, Paul Byrd pitched seven sharp innings to earn his 100th career win and Casey Blake had a two-run double in Cleveland's three-run fourth for its 1,000th win against Detroit.

Byrd (3-5) allowed two runs and four hits to improve to 9-2 against Detroit.

Ryan Garko hit a solo drive in the eighth for Cleveland.

Justin Verlander (2-9) fell to 1-6 in his last eight starts, giving up three runs and five hits over seven innings. He struck out a season-high eight and issued four walks.

Royals 2, Yankees 1

At New York, Kyle Davies won his second consecutive start since being called up from the minors and struggling Kansas City earned a rare victory at Yankee Stadium while snapping an 11-game road skid.

David DeJesus hit an RBI single and the Royals got splendid relief work from Ron Mahay and Joakim Soria.

With its first road victory since May 18, Kansas City improved to 2-19 in its last 21 visits to Yankee Stadium—and 6-33 since the start of the 1998 season. Darrell Rasner (3-3) picked up a hard-luck loss.

Orioles 6, Blue Jays 5

At Toronto, Melvin Mora, Kevin Millar and Adam Jones all homered in Baltimore's six-run eighth inning and the Orioles beat Toronto.

Toronto right-hander Shaun Marcum blanked Baltimore through seven innings but left after Brian Roberts opened the eighth with a double. Nick Markakis singled home Roberts on the first pitch from left-hander Brian Tallet and Mora followed with a two-run homer to center, his 10th, making it 4-3.

The Orioles added three more runs on homers by Millar and Jones off Armando Benitez (0-1).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	38	26	.594	_
Tampa Bay	36	25	.590	1/2
Toronto	32	31	.508	5 1/2
Baltimore	30	30	.500	6
New York	30	31	.492	6 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	34	26	.567	_
Minnesota	31	30	.508	3 1/2
Cleveland	28	33	.459	6 1/2
Detroit	24	36	.400	10
Kansas City	24	37	.393	10 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	38	24	.613	_
Oakland	33	28	.541	4 1/2
Texas	31	32	.492	7 1/2
Seattle	22	39	.361	15 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	37	26	.587	_
Florida	32	28	.533	3 1/2
Atlanta	32	30	.516	4 1/2
New York	30	30	.500	5 1/2
Washington	25	37	.403	11 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	39	23	.629	_
St. Louis	36	27	.571	3 1/2
Milwaukee	32	29	.525	6 1/2
Houston	32	30	.516	7
Cincinnati	30	32	.484	9
Pittsburgh	29	32	.475	9 1/2

West Division

Arizona	33	28	.541	_
Los Angeles	29	32	.475	4
San Francisco	26	35	.426	7
San Diego	26	37	.413	8
Colorado	23	38	.377	10

Yesterday's Games

Arizona 3, Pittsburgh 1
Cincinnati 11, Florida 3
Philadelphia 4, Atlanta 3, 10 innings
San Francisco 10, Washington 1
Houston 6, St. Louis 1
Colorado 6, Milwaukee 4
San Diego 2, N.Y. Mets 1
L.A. Dodgers 3, Chicago Cubs 0
Seattle 8, Boston 0
Cleveland 4, Detroit 2
Kansas City 2, N.Y. Yankees 1
Baltimore 6, Toronto 5
Tampa Bay 12, Texas 4
Chicago White Sox 10, Minnesota 6
L.A. Angels 3, Oakland 1

STANFORD ST JUDE CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)–Scores Friday from the St. Jude Championship, a $6 million (€4 million) U.S. PGA event at 7,239-yard, par-70 TPC Southwind:

SECOND ROUND

Michael Bradley	69-68	137
Jason Dufner	69-68	137
Dean Wilson	69-68	137
Tommy Armour III	66-71	137
Gavin Coles	73-64	137
Marc Turnesa	68-69	137
Vijay Singh	67-71	138
Alex Cejka	69-69	138
Davis Love III	68-70	138
Michael Letzig	70-68	138
Bob Estes	74-65	139
Omar Uresti	70-69	139
Jim McGovern	71-68	139
John Huston	71-69	140
Bill Haas	71-69	140
Glen Day	69-71	140
Heath Slocum	73-67	140
Trevor Immelman	74-66	140
Stephen Ames	69-71	140
Brandt Snedeker	69-71	140
Sergio Garcia	68-72	140
Dan Forsman	70-70	140
Boo Weekley	65-75	140
Craig Kanada	68-72	140
Scott Sterling	70-70	140
Jeff Overton	70-71	141
Justin Leonard	68-73	141
Tim Clark	72-69	141
Jeff Maggert	71-70	141
Eric Axley	70-71	141
Tim Herron	74-67	141
J.P. Hayes	70-71	141
Camilo Villegas	71-71	142
Kenny Perry	71-71	142
Robert Allenby	71-71	142
Vaughn Taylor	70-72	142
Brett Rumford	69-73	142
Harrison Frazar	72-70	142
Lucas Glover	71-71	142
Marco Dawson	71-71	142
Brenden Pappas	73-70	143
Patrick Sheehan	73-70	143
Brian Gay	76-67	143
Padraig Harrington	71-72	143
Jeff Gove	70-73	143
Bob Heintz	73-70	143
Rich Beem	71-72	143
Bob Tway	72-71	143
Scott Verplank	71-72	143
Woody Austin	71-72	143
Kevin Streelman	74-69	143
Webb Simpson	71-72	143
Bob May	75-69	144
Stuart Appleby	68-76	144
Troy Matteson	74-70	144
David Toms	72-72	144
Ken Duke	72-72	144
Billy Andrade	76-68	144
Tom Pernice, Jr.	72-72	144
Jonathan Byrd	69-75	144
Mark Calcavecchia	70-74	144
Charley Hoffman	69-75	144
Stephen Leaney	70-74	144
Jimmy Walker	70-74	144
Jin Park	73-71	144
Brandt Jobe	71-74	145
David Duval	70-75	145
Brad Elder	69-76	145
Todd Demsey	73-72	145
Fredrik Jacobson	73-72	145
Dicky Pride	75-70	145
Bart Bryant	69-76	145
Garrett Willis	72-73	145
Richard S. Johnson	72-73	145

By The Associated Press

The Week in Sports

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 26 participants of the beginners' and open division of the Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race gather at the starting line.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tyce Mister, left, and Butch Sublemente, second left, join other cyclist going up Capital Hill in last May 31's Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race.

Swimmers, cyclists dominate headlines

DAN KIMBALL

Kai Staal shows his form in the 100m breaststroke of last weekend's 2008 Guam Swimming Championship.

DAN KIMBALL

Grace Kimball races toward a silver medal in the 50m freestyle of the 2008 Guam Swimming Championship.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PIC's Paradise In Cleats captain and forward Brenda Schultz dribbles the ball down the field in their semifinal game against Wild Bill's Wild Fire last May 31 in the 2008 Women's Recreational Spring Football League.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Matt Smith's Smithereens center Madison Smith gains possession of the ball to deny Mariana Eye Spectacular Blues' Linda Anastacio (12) a shot at goal in their semifinal game last May 31 in the 2008 Women's Recreational Spring Football League.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Local tankers and cyclists dominated sports headlines last week when they competed in the 2008 Guam Swimming Championship and Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race, respectively.

Rezne Wong and Kensuke Kimura of Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan led the way for Saipan swimmers as the two obliterated the old standards in the 100m breaststroke and 200m breaststroke, respectively.

The 17-year-old Wong won the gold medal in the 100m breaststroke but more importantly the 1:10:91 he took to complete the event shattered the CNMI national record of 1:11.69 set in 1989 by Brent Thompson.

Wong's 100m breaststroke was also a new age group record, as it thumped the 1:11.70 recorded by Justin Pierce in the same event back in 1999

Kimura, for his part, broke the 11-12 age group record in the 200m breaststroke by completing the event in 3:04. Keoni Ichihara held the previous record when he swam the 200m breaststroke in 3:04.84 in 1996.

The Saipan Swim Club, meanwhile, won 32 medals in last weekend's 2008 Guam Swimming Championships led by Kai Staal and Grace Kimball.

Butch Sublemente and Mieko Carey, for their part, used their experience from past stagings of the XTERRA Saipan Championship to win the Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race held last May 31.

Sublemente was the first to cycle down from the 1,554-foot Mt. Tapochao and cruised to the finish line at the American Memorial Park in a sterling time of 57:02. Carey, for her part, finished sixth overall and tops among women cyclists, completing the eight-mile off-road race in 1:03:21.

In other sports news, the 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament will be held in the CNMI after the International Basketball Federation, or FIBA, awarded the hosting of the event to the Commonwealth last month.

A total of 36 pairs made up of 72 players also took part in the Inaugural Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament held last May 31 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

In soccer, Matt Smith's Smithereens and PIC's Paradise In Cleats advanced to the finals of the 2008 Women's Recreational Spring Football League.

Smithereens were first to book a berth in the championship game despite finishing its May 31 semifinal match against Marianas Eye Spectacular Blues in a scoreless draw. Paradise In Cleats later joined Smithereens in the finals after nipping Wild Bill's Wild Fire, 1-0, in their own semifinal contest.

In golf, Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol was conventional by his standards after he missed the cut of the 2008 Philippine Amateur Golf Championship held two weeks ago in Bacolod City, Philippines.

The past week also saw action continue in the PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League and 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League despite a midweek announcement that load shedding will cancel action in both events.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's five-man team poses with their medals and High Point trophies from the 2008 Guam Swimming Championships soon after arriving at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A number of Guam swimmers came to say goodbye to Tsunami Saipan at Guam's Won Pat International Airport.

MARK RABAGO

Jess Wabol looks at his club after coming home from the 2008 Philippine Amateur Golf Championship held in Bacolod City, Philippines.

MARK RABAGO

Former Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Juan 'Pan' Guerrero poses with Hard Rock Café Saipan models Mylene, right, and Oksana during the awards banquet o fthe Inaugural Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament last May 31 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Swimmers, cyclists dominate headlines

Local tankers and cyclists dominated sports headlines last week when they competed in the 2008 Guam Swimming Championship and Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race, respectively.

27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Federer vs. Nadal in final again

As the points piled up and the light faded, it was tough to decide which scenario had seemed less likely at the outset of the French Open semifinals Friday.

25

Saipan Jr. All-Stars sweep first two games

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Saipan Junior All-Stars have the momentum going against their counterparts from Tinian after outscoring them, 36-7, in a sweep of the first two games of the Junior League District Tournament yesterday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Both games were ended by the 10-run mercy rule.

Peter Tenorio and Ricardo Dela Cruz were overpowering from the mound, pitching four shutout innings in the Saipan Junior All-Stars' 17-1 route of the Tinian Junior All-Stars in the first game.

Tenorio, who led the 2008 Saipan Junior League with 26 strikeouts for the runner-up Jets, had the Tinian batters completely puzzled en route to registering six strikeouts in three innings.

Dela Cruz, who struck fear in the hearts of opposing pitchers while playing for champion Lion Heart last season, was equally effective from the No. 1 position.

Tinian only managed to get on base against Dela Cruz when former tennis prodigy Benjie Decena doubled off him in the fourth.

In the fifth, the tournament's lone female player Jamie Omengkar also took first base when Dela Cruz accidentally hit her before Darius Pettis gave the neighboring island their first run of the game on a Decena single.

But that one run was not enough to stave off the 10-run mercy rule, as Saipan had already accumulated 17 runs in the first five innings and they took Game 1 with a lot to spare.

For the record, the Saipan Junior All-Stars piled on five runs in the very first inning, added another three in the second, five more in the third, before scoring three more runs apiece in the fourth and fifth innings.

Tinian appeared to be rejuvenated after the lunch break as they surprised Saipan pitcher Joseph Palacios with three hits that scored three runs in the first inning to lead 3-0.

Saipan answered with three runs of its own in the bottom of the first. Palacios then was lifted in favor of Leroy Regis in the second after the Jets pitcher allowed Vicente Cruz a single that scored Moses Untalan, giving Tinian a shocking 4-3 lead.

Regis shut down Tinian shortly after taking the mound as he only yielded two more runs the rest of the way. Saipan batters, meanwhile, found their rhythm following up a two-run second inning with a 13-run explosion in the third, which for all intents and purposes, ended the game in Saipan's favor.

The more than one-hour third inning for Saipan saw all nine players round the bases with Anthony Salas, Dela Cruz, Regis, Justin Kintol, and Tenorio even touching home plate twice.

Saipan tucked in one more run in the bottom of the fourth when Lamarc Iguel scored on an error by Tinian catcher Joel Santos to make it 19-6.

Tinian, which needed to score four runs in the fifth to avert another mercy run-shortened game, went down 1-2-3 when Decena failed to beat the relay to first, Regis struck out Santos, and Christian Barcinas was forced out at first.

Saipan manager Vinnie Sablan was happy with the back-to-back wins and said it was great preparation for the all-important championship at 9am today.

"It's good and I'm proud of the boys. Everything is going as planned. Like I said we just wanted to win all the games that we have. Hopefully, we can duplicate the feat today and score a lot of runs tomorrow.

"The good thing that we have is that we're entering tomorrow's game with our two top pitchers—Lamarc Iguel and Harry Nakamura. That will be an advantage for us since Team Tinian has yet to see our best on the mound," he said.

Asked if he was worried when Tinian managed to cross home plate thrice in the first inning and took a 4-3 lead in the second, Sablan said it served as a wake-up call for his boys that anything can happen in baseball.

"They [Tinian] earned it and they got their hits. We just fell off a little bit in the first inning," said Sablan.

Tinian manager Fred Omengkar, for his part, said his team will be up against long odds today when they face a Saipan team teeming with talent.

"We saved two our pitchers for tomorrow's game. But these guys are pretty solid. We'll just do what we can but they're a very strong team. The only way we can have a chance is for our pitchers to perform well tomorrow," he said.

The two starting pitchers Omengkar was referring to are brothers Malcolm and Daville Maui.

MARK RABAGO

Saipan Junior All-Star Rocco Reyes awaits a throw from the Tinian pitcher during their game yesterday in the 2008 Junior League District Tournament yesterday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field. Left, Saipan relief pitcher Ricardo Dela Cruz combined with starter Peter Tenorio to limit Tinian to one run in the first game of the 2008 Junior League District Tournament.

MARK RABAGO

Junior League All-Stars of Saipan and Tinian as well as the Saipan All-Stars in the Big, Senior, and Major leagues stand at attention as the Kagman High School ROTC conduct the posting of colors during the opening ceremony of the 2008 Junior League District Tournament yesterday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

'Road to Regionals' begin at Tan Ko

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 2008 Junior League District Tournament kicked off yesterday with simple rites at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field in Oleai.

The opening ceremony was delayed for 30 minutes because of the onset of rain, but it was all clear skies and smooth sailing when it finally started, especially for the hosts which defeated Tinian in the first two games, 17-1 and 19-6.

After the Major, Senior, and Big League all-star teams followed by the respective Junior All-Star teams of Tinian and Saipan took their places on the field, the opening ceremony began with an invocation delivered by Saipan Community Church pastor Roger Abe, who prayed for safety and fair play for and among the participants of the event.

District Administrator James Ada then stepped up to podium and welcomed everyone in attendance to the 2008 Junior League District Tournament. He also thanked the presidents of both island's Little League programs—Ike Aquiningoc of Tinian and Juan I. Tenorio of Saipan.

The 2008 qualifier, which Ada said is also called the 'Road to the Regionals,' marks the third time that Tinian is participating since the island's Little League program was chartered in 1997.

Ada added that the two-day tournament will serve as a qualifier for the Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament set also on Saipan from June 26 to July 4.

House Speaker Arnold Palacios, meanwhile, gave kudos to the Little League program of the CNMI.

"That we are standing here today is a testament to the community effort from our parents, from the coaches, and from the many volunteers, especially to you, [the baseball players]. It's a testament to the success of the Little League program not only on Saipan but the whole Commonwealth."

Palacios added that the program is more than a sport. "It's not just about playing baseball. It really ends up giving lifelong lessons and that's why we're here today to instill these values to our youth."

Rep. Ramon Tebuteb, for his part, emphasized sportsmanship all throughout the event. He also thanked the sponsors, organizers, and supporters of Little League program.

Saipan Little League Baseball Association vice present Mike Borja, who also serves as tournament director, extended his gratitude to the organizing committee and volunteers.

He told the Saipan and Tinian Junior All-Stars to play hard baseball but not to forget sportsmanship during the two-day tournament.

The opening ceremony was also attended by Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao and Saipan Mayor's Office information officer Tony Benevente. KSPN2 news director Bob Coldeen was the emcee.